Give the poor The make-under spin-doctor a less slap more break comment pages Style fashion page

Prescott: 'We must revive traditional Labour values'

INTHE WEDNESDAY REVIEW

THE DEPUTY Prime Minister, BY PAUL WAUGH John Prescott, and the Chancellor Gordon Brown, have forged a new alliance to reassert "tradifional" Labour values in Peter Mandelson

While Tony Blair holidays in the Seychelles, they have joined forces to promote "interventionism" in government and fill the vacuum left by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry. In an interview with The In-

dependent, Mr Prescott revealed publicly for the first time that he and Mr Brown productivity through the free

AND COLIN BROWN

were working closely to shift the focus of the Government. Mr the wake of the resignation of Prescott said the controversy and media speculation surrounding the Mandelson affair had led them to realise Labour should concentrate more on "substance" than rhetoric.

> In the interview, understood to have been sanctioned by the Chancellor, Mr Prescott challenges Mr Mandelson's New Labour commitment to improve

market: "We have decided that public expenditure is there to uphold the economy in the tra-

ditional Keynesian way." The Deputy Prime Minister heaps praise on Geoffrey Robinson, the former paymaster-general, for his help in developing radical public-private sector partnerships and schemes to raise money for public transport from road pricing.

Coming 24 hours after the cabinet "enforcer", Jack Cunningham, told ministers to stop the feuding that was damaging

words represent a reassertion of his authority as Deputy Prime Minister. It is known that he and Mr Brown are among several Cabinet ministers, including Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, and David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, alarmed by Mr Blair's forging of closer links with the Liberal Democrats and his desire to re-

electoral reform. News of the new Cabinet axis was greeted with glee by the Tories, who said it proved the Government, Mr Prescott's Mr Blair had lost control of his

align the centre-left through

ministers. John Redwood, Peter Mandelson. It's quite exshadow trade and industry secretary, said the Prescott-Brown partnership's stress on interventionism proved that the Government had not lost its old Labour instincts.

"The civil war is evidently hotting up. They are now introducing some ideology into what so far has just been intense personal loathing hetween the Chancellor and the Prime Minister. Clearly, we are seeing old Lahour trying to exploit the New Labour weakness following the resignation of

traordinary."

A senior party source said the alliance was an attempt by Mr Prescott to help Mr Brown at a time when he was under intense pressure to fire his spin doctor. Chartie Whelan, following the Mandelson resignation.

This is certainly significant. Gordon and John are using the opportunity of Peter's departure to say that not everything he did was on target and we need to shift things. A lot of the party would agree," the

But a senior Liberal Democrat said the alliance was a distraction from the Government's reforming agenda. "Tony Should come back from holiday with his sun-tan and bang all their heads together.'

Andrew Mackinlay, MP for Thurrock and a member of the Parliamentary Labour Party's executive, was delighted by news of the alliance. "Lots of backbenchers will be extremely pleased. We were sure that the traditional Lahour values would hreak out once more after a period of suppression."

herald a wider fighthack agains some of the more aggressive New Labour ideas proposed by Millbank appa-

One such idea was abolition of activist-dominated general committee meetings of local constituency parties. "I hope this means we can now drop such ideas and bring back the Labour stalwarts that we were tosing in droves.

Prescott interview, page 4 Ken Livingstone, Review, page 4

Four die in failed Yemen rescue bid

THREE BRITONS and an Aus- BY STEVE BOGGAN tralian died yesterday when Yemeni security forces stormed a building in which 16 bolidaymakers were being held hostage by Islamic fundamentalists.

The Yemenis staged the resue attempt in spite of a British quest that force should not be used, but officials in Adeo said only when the kidnappers the capital Sanaa. began killing their prisoners.

The attack came as the bodies of three British telecommunications workers murdered by their kidnappers in Chechnya were flown home.

Last night, two of the freed hostages, an American and an Australian, were in hospital Lie other 10 survivors were being cared for by Foreign Office officials.

As soon as the survivors are fit, it is thought they will be asked who began shooting first. Kidnapping is commonplace in Yemen, but this is the first time any hostages have been killed and the first time the military bas been involved.

There was speculation last night in the intelligence community that extreme force was used because Saleh Haidara al-Atwi, an imprisoned cleric se release was being deanded by the kidnappers, had links to Osama hin Laden, the man accused of orchestrating the hombing of US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania in August this year.

Yemeni sources said the kidnapuers. from the Al-Fadi tribe helonged to Islamic Jihad. One analyst said supporters of Bin Laden had met during the past two weeks to identify targets after the US bombing of Iraq.

The bostages - six Britisb women, sîx Britisb men, two American women and two Australian men - were taken on Monday when their five-car convoy was amhushed by 18 kidnappers armed with Kalashnikov rifles and bazookas near they took the military option Mawdiyah, 175 miles south of

> As negotiations for their release were under way yester-

■The kidnap that went wrong page 3

Chechnya coffins

page3 return

Fears grow for Angolan hostage page 3

day morning, the Yemenis said they knew of their whereabouts. At 11am GMT, Victor Henderson, the British ambassador, met General Hussein Mohammed Arab, the Yemeni Interior Minister, and urged him to desist from the use of force.

A Foreign Office spokesman said: "The ambassador made it clear to the Yemeni authorities that no violence should take place and that no rescue attempt should be made that

put the hostages' lives at risk." But more than 200 soldiers were already in place around the hostages' hideout in an area known as al-Wadea'a, 250 miles south of the capital. According to the Yemenis. the kidnappers were attacked when they began shooting the hostages.

An unnamed Yemeni official told Reuters news agency: "The operation started after abductors started killing hostages ... They killed two, and then our forces stormed them to prevent an escalation of the situation and the killing of more bostages." Two of the kidnappers were killed and four taken prisoner.

Last night, the survivors were recovering from their ordeal in the Movenpick Hotel in Aden. David Pearce, deputy head of mission at the British Embassy, said: "They are obviously in a state of severe sbock, and I mean severe shock."

The Foreign Office was in a state of confusion last night, unable to confirm the numbers killed or to elaborate on the operation. Officials said Mr Henderson was forced to seek a second meeting with the Inte-rior Minister when news of the killings emerged, but they were unable to say what he was told.

Explore Worldwide, the company with whom the hostages were travelling, said it had followed Foreign Office guidelines "to the letter". It said it would suspend all trips to Yemen for the time being.

More than 100 Westerners have been kidnapped in Yemen since 1992 hut almost all have been released unharmed.



Dean Headley claims one of his six wickets in Melbourne

Nation bowled over as England win at cricket

THE ASHES may appear to be BY DEREK PRINGLE on permanent loan to Australia, but England have at last done the deceot thing and won a Test match. Australia began their secood innings yesterday needing 175 runs for victory in the fourth Test but, in a dramatic final session. England took eight wickets for 59 to win by 12 runs. The collapse was largely instigated by Dean

Judging by the scenes at the just happy that we won." Melbourne Cricket Ground, awash with legions of flag- parents were celebrating after waving supporters, anyone would have thought something bigger was afoot, but the victory will have done wonders for in Stourbridge, West Midlands, England's flagging morale.

"Any win is a good win," said the captain, Alec Stewart, afterwards. "It's not going to beat our win at Headingley against South Africa last summer, because that won the series. The idea now is to win any team to finish 2-2 to the best side in the world."

Back in his role as opener, Stewart scored 107 and 52 hut it was the pace bowlers who

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in Melbourne

stole the glory with a performance of sustained hostility. "It was an emotional

moment," said Headley, whose wickets won him the man of the match award. "I was getting tired, but I kept telling myself, if you can get one wicket you can get another. In the end Headley who finished with 6-60. that's what happened, but I'm

Back home, Headley's proud a night spent following their son's heroics. His mother, Gail, speaking from the family home said she and ber busband were "elated".

"I know he really wanted to do something good this time. I am so glad. He really deserves it," Mrs Headley said. "I got up at 6.45am and my husband Ron, who bad bad the radio on in Sydney and square this all night, said, The lad is doing series. It would mean a lot to it but it is very hight.' I couldn't stand it. I was pacing the floor crying and I had to keep leaving the room, but he did it."

Extraordinary victory, Sport, page 20

British seabirds living to be 100 years old



idence is growing that some British seabirds may live up to 100 years, one of Britain's lead-

ing hird experts said yesterday. Recoveries of ringed birds indicate great longevity in rate, some fulmars in old species such as the fulmar, gannet, manx shearwater and storm petrel, said Chris Mead, of the British Trust for

Ornithology (BTO). Fulmars have already been

FORGET THE wise old owl Ev- By MICHAEL MCCARTHY Environment Correspondent

> shown to live to more than 40 cause of their slow breeding colonies, such as St Kilda off the the gannet." Scottish coast, may bave chalked up a century.

for 30 years. But, Mr Mead years for the ringed plover, 26 are seven or eight years old, said: "If I had to lay odds, I'd say it would be very unlikely there wasn't a 100-year-old fulmar, or years, and gannets to 36. But be- a few of them, in the St Kilda colony, and I wouldn't be at all surprised if it was the same for

The BTO's latest five-year report on the recovery of ringed There is no proofyet because birds shows a number of leg-rings strong enough to last longevity records for waders sea-and all are extremely slow that long have only been in use and seabirds, including 18 breeders, not laying until they to be 100."

for the bar-tailed godwit and 33 for the common tern -all proved from recoveries made in 1996. In the five years to 1998, storm petrels have been shown to live to at least 32 years, Manx shear-

All are of the pelagic species - birds which range far out to

fulmars to nearly 41.

waters to 35, gannets to 36 and

and then only a single egg. "If they did not survive a long time, they would die out," Mr Mead said. "I'm certain that quite a lot

of fulmars are over 50. About 8 per cent, or less, die per year, so it is quite likely, provided there is no senility, that in a colony of 100,000 birds - as in St Kilda - a handful would live

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Meet the make-under

The make-over is over,

the experts now want to

refine and tone you down

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EXEMY Director: Starring: Will Smi a tale of weaves i Tattenha House, F net, Ode Odeon V Baker St leys, Vir

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IN THE INDEPENDENT TOMORROW

She says she wants sex and only that but might it ruin our friendship?

VIRGINIA IRONSIDE AND OUR READERS ON THIS WEEK'S DILEMMA

FILM REVIEWS ANTHONY QUINN ON 'THE ACID HOUSE' AND THE LATEST **'STAR TREK' MOVIE** PLUS EDUCATION

IN, WEEK OUT: DEBORAH ROSS, HOWARD JACOBSON, HAMISH MCRAE, MARK STELL, ROBERT FISK, TERE

Private sector helps NHS to meet targets

STAFF SHORTAGES are causing NHS hospitals to divert patients to the private sector in order to meet government targets for cutting waiting lists.

mooey, many NHS hospitals do not have the facilities to provide the extra wards and operating sessions that are needed to

Frank Dobson, The Secretary of State for Health, said yesterday that an extra £32m would go to health authorities as a "performance bonus" to reward those that had cut waiting lists, because figures showed that hospital spending oo private agency nurses had doubled in five years.

A hospital in Coventry would use its share of the money to provide a second "clean air" theatre, significantly increasing the number of orthopaedic cases that could be treated. Redbridge and Waltham Forest Health Authority, in London, would invest the money in tech-

SW & NW England, Wales, Lake Dist, Isle of Man: Sor Elsewhere will see a mixture of sunny spells and showers, westerly wind. Maximum temp 8-110 (46-52F).

N Ireland: Very windy with limited bright spells and some strong south-westerly wind. Maximum temp 7-90 (45-48F)

London: A12 Green Man Roundabout,

London: A12 Green Man Houngabout, Leytonstons, Major roadworks on new M11 link road. Until 3161 Docember 1999. Cambridgeshire A10 between Forton and M11. Resurfacing and bridge maintenance work at Shepreth Mil. Until 14th February, Buckinghamshire: M40 between junchons 1a (M2516 3 (Wycombe East). Three narrow

SW & NW Scotland, Glasgow. W Isles: Any early rum will clear to leave sunny spells and some sharp showers, the showers most frequent in the north. A strong south-easterly wind, veering south-westerly later. Maximum temp 8-10C (46-50F)

Northern Ireland, Wales and western England and Scotland will have further rain tomorrow. It will be cloudy elsewhere with limited sunny spells, Rain will spread eastward overnight to leave New Year's Day wet, with limited sunshine in the west

Noon today

By JEREMY LAURANCE **Health Editor**

niques to reduce the use of invasive surgery.

But it emerged that East London and the City Health Authority planned to spend £200,000 on surgery at the private London Independent Hos-

pital, where a room costs

between £250 and £350 a day. A spokeswoman for the health authority said: "It is very difficult to switch capacity on and off. This is the only way we can deliver quick treatment for people on the waiting

The £32m performance fund 10 per cent of the £320m allocated nationally for cutting waiting lists this year - was intended to encourage best practice, but it is understood that all health authorities will receive a share

Stephen Thornton, director of the NHS Confederation, said that the use of private hospitals

Temperature, °C

and private agency nurses was

diverting money from the NHS.
The British Medical Association joined the attack by calling on the Government to treat patients according to their clinical need rather than their position on a waiting list.
In a discussion paper pub-

lished yesterday, which draws on experience abroad, the BMA said that when patients were put on surgery waiting lists, they should he given a score that reflected the severity of their condition and how quickly they needed surgery. There ought also to be national guidelines so that patients knew they would be given the same priority for surgery wherever they lived.

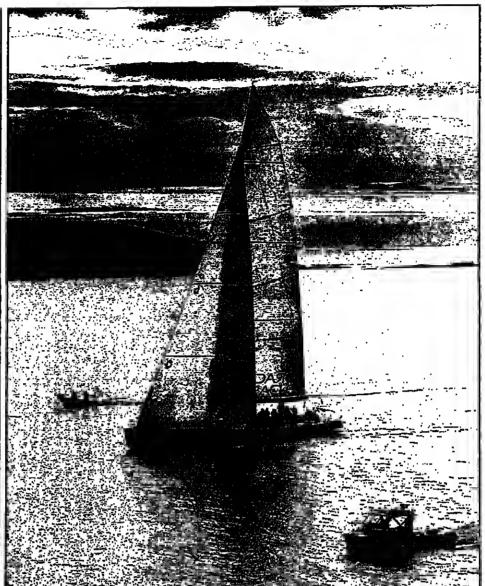
Dr Peter Hawker, chairman of the BMA's consultants' committee, said: "We must move away from the present focus this government has on total numbers waiting for surgery and look at the clinical priority of those awaiting surgery."

LIGHTING UP

HIGH TIDES

SUN & MOON

WEATHERLINE



Sydney to Hobart race winner 'Sayonara' limping into Hobart Harbour yesterday AP

YESTERDAY EXTREMES

Marmest: Isles to Scilly 12C (54F) Coldest (day):Boltshope Park 2C (36F) Memest: Sr Bee's Head, Cumbria 0.71 in:

Aberdeen	4.1	0	5	41	
Anglesey	2.6	0.06	7	45	
Aviemore	1.8	0.01	i	34	
Belfast	0.8	0.0	ż	36	
	1,4	0.08	2	43	
Bourgemouth		0.08	9	48	
Bristol	4.4	0.07	ã	46	
Buxton	0.7	0.01	3	37	
Cardiff	1.9	0.16	8	46	
Clacton	1.4	0.03	7	45	
Cromer	2.8	0.01	ż	45	
Edinburgh		0.01	á	32	
Exmouth	4.5	0.01	ă	46	
Fishguard	1.0		8	45	
Folkestone	0.7	0.03	á	48	
Glasgow	1,9	0.02	9	36	
Hastings	1,3	0.26	9	48	
Hama	0.8	0.20		40	
Hove Isle-of-man	n/a		6	43	
ISIC-OT-INAN	2.8	0.37	9	48	
Isle-of-wight	3.0	0.05	9	46	
Jersey Kendal	3.0	0.03	4	40	П
	. 0	0.29	6		И
Leeds	2.4	0.09	3	43	
Lerwick	. 0	0.45		37	
Littlehampton	7.1	0.		43	
London	2.8	0.02		48	
Lowestoft	2.2	0.01	7	4:	
Manchester	2.4	0.01	3	-1	
Margate	0.7	0.04	8	46	
Morecambe	1.1	0.30	5	41	
Newcastle	0.1	•	3	37	
Newquay	п/a	_	_		
Norwich	3.3	0	8	46	ı
Oxford	4.4	0.02	7	4	
Ross-on-wye	3.6	0.30	6	4.	
Salcombe	n/a		_		
Scarborough	2.1	0.01	5	43	1
Shrewsbury	2.2	0.09	-	٠.	
Southend	r/a		_		
Southport	-:	0.29	6	43	
Stornoway	2.3	0.06	5	41	i
Swanage	2.4	0.06	9	49	
Tenby	0.5	0.20	.7	45	i
Torquay	4.4	0.06	10	50	-

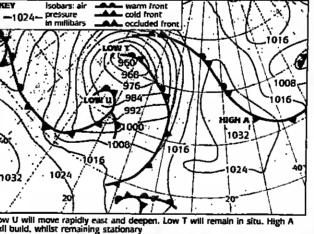
Rain or SHINE...

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SAN FRANCISCO Bay was shrouded in dense fog last people from flying into airports in San Francisco, Oakland and San Jose. Forecasters said the severe fog, which spread all the way

down the coast to Santa Barbara, would last through today. Piles of unclaimed luggage are lining the baggage claim areas at San Francisco International Airport.

THE WORLD **EUROPE NOON TODAY**



THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Yacht race death toll rises to six

BY JAKE LYNCH in Sydney

THE DEATH toll in the Sydney to Hobart yacht race rose to six vesterday as rescuers retrieved two bodies of crew members from the oldest vessel in the race, the Winston Churchill, after searching for survivors round the clock.

Naval helicopters spotted a life-raft with two crew members clinging to it. Another three were swept away as the inflatable disintegrated in winds gusting up to 80 knots.

The boat had completed 17 Sydney to Hobart races, but her skipper, Richard Winning, had installed a new aluminium mast as part of a £100,000 refit which pierced the original wooden hull, causing the Winston Churchill to sink within 10 minutes.

Mr Winning was among a group of four picked up earlier rom the vessel's second life raft which, he said, capsized at regular intervals in the heavy seas: That was truly frightening. One minute there would be four of you up there, and the next minute you're upside down, and one of you has to get under water to right the thing with the

ther three sitting inside." Of the three men lost from Mr Winning's boat, the bodies of John Deane and Mick Bannister were pulled from the sea. A third, Jim Lawlor, was declared missing, presumed

Olympic yachtsman, has also been presumed dead after being washed overboard from his boat, Sword of Orion.

Meanwhile the race leaders were limping into port at Hobart having negotiated the worst conditions in the 54-year history of the event. The winning skipper, the American computer billionaire Larry Ellison, said his yacht, Sayonara, had itself been damaged while crossing the Bass Strait which separates Tasmania from mainland Victoria.



Ellison: Phenomenal boat with phenomenal crew

He had realised that smaller essels, following in Sayonara's wake, were in for a rough time: "This was a phenomenal boat, with a phenomenal crew, totally prepared for this event. Weekend yachties out there, it's crazy. They're in deep, deep, deep trouble.

Asked if they would enter the race again, Mr Ellison said: "Not if I live to be a thousand." However, one crew member, Graeme Freeman, said: "Tve said I won't, but there's always that desire there to do it."

With calmer conditions yesterday, dozens of yachts were continuing the race or making their own way back to shore. The Solo Globe Challenge was declared missing when her radio failed and she remained out of contact for 24 hours. A naval frigate searching for survivors found her vesterday Glyn Charles, the British morning, heading back to Sydney with an improvised sailing rig. One crew member, Kier En derby needed treatment to two broken ribs.

The Sydney Cruising Yacht Club, which organises the event, announced an inquiry under a former commodore. Peter Bush. The present commodore, Hugo van Kretschmer, said there was a need to "uz ravel and debrief" and to find years with just two previous fatalities, six people had lost their

10 to 10 to 100

Storm set to cost UK insurers £2m

BRITISH INSURANCE companies are bracing themselves for the highest single pay-out for weather-related claims since 1990 - an estimated £2m - from damage caused to property by the Christmas storm. Mark Bishop, of Cornhill In-

surance, said there will be large claims for roof and chimney damage, although most of the bad weather on Boxing Day had hit "waste land".

Five people died and thousands of homes were left without electricity when 110mph winds lashed the north-west.

Nearly 100,000 homes were affected in Scotland, Some 5,000 homes in remote rural areas remained without power last night. In the Irish Republic. about 25,000 homes were still without power. Road and rail networks were

also affected.

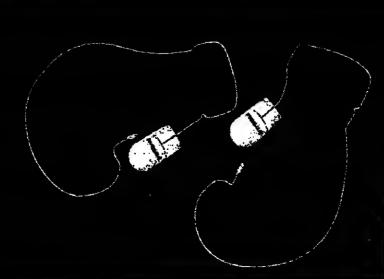
BY BRENDAN MONTAGUE

are likely to pay a price for the wild conditions. It is estimated that insurance claims will now total £800m for 1998, just under a third more than in the previous year. This is also due to winter storms and two periods of severe flooding. A spokesperson for the As-

sociation of British Insurers said: "This has been a particularly bad-weather year as far as we are concerned."

The poor weather is likely to continue, affecting New Year celebrations, the Met Office said. A spokesperson said: "I don't think we'll see winds quite as strong as we saw in Scotland and Ireland but the weather remains unsettled." The west is likely to be affected by strong winds and driving rains.

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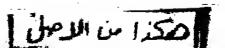
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🍠 THE INDEPENDENT

Wednesday 30 December 1998

Hostages abroad: Yemen abduction linked to bombing of Iraq as remains of four other Britons are brought home





حكدًا من الاصل

tribesmen kidnapped four Ger-

man tourists, Yemeni news-

papers said the abductors

demanded a ransom of £400,000,

huxury cars, bouses and state

jobs for senior tribal members.

On Boxing Day, other tribesmen

blew up Yemen's main oil

pipeline, which carries 150,000

poverty in an oil-rich country

and they have enough

weaponry to cause chaos. Illicit

guns are openly carried in

Yemen. Estimates put the num-

ber of firearms at nearly 50 mil-

lion - more than three times the

The violent outcome is in

population of 16 million.

They are angry at levels of

barreis per day.

Death in land of 'safe' kidnaps

UNTIL YESTERDAY, being kid- By STEVE BOGGAN napped in Yemen was regarded as a relatively safe - and some have claimed "enjoyable" - way to pass the time. The deaths of up to five of the hostages taken on Monday will change that perception forever,

Since 1992, more than 100 mesterners have been kidnapped but none until this week has been killed. Usually, they are treated well and released after the Yemeni government makes promises of roads or schools or clinics for the kidnappers' communities.

On Monday, however, when with Kalashnikovs and bazookas, there was no public-spirited motive. The kidnappers were extremists who, according to → Yemeni officials, demanded the

elease of two Islamic clerics arrested two weeks earlier in a crackdown on the vigilante enin southern Yemen.

One has not been named but the other is thought to be Saleh Haidara al-Atwi who is understood to command the support of other fundamentalist tribesmen in the region and is an admirer of Osama bin Laden, the n hlamed by the United Sales for the bombing of its embassies in Kenya and Sudan last

According to Stuart Poole-Robb, chief executive of Mer- admitted responsibility for the chant International Group attack seven weeks ago in

(1) (1) (OS

HE EN

(MIG), which advises multinational companies on security, alarm bells have been ringing over reports that supporters of Mr hin Laden met in Syria following the British and American bombing of Iraq.

The fundamentalists are furious over the bombing of Iraq and a hacklash is expected," he said. "The feeling in the intelligence community is that Bin Laden's supporters met to identify soft targets for attack. As well as places like Yemen, we can expect problems next year 18 tribesmen beld up a convoy in Morocco, Egypt, Libya and elsewhere.

According to the Yemeniauthorities, when the hostages' convoy of five vehicles was surthere was an exchange of fire

The travel firm's brochure

hut no one was injured. However, Mr Poole-Robb's sources in Yemen say a number of police had been hit by gunfire. The bolidaymakers were on a tour rounded by the kidnappers organised by Explore WorldTHE YEMEN: FACTS AND FIGURES

Population: 16 million No. of firearms: 50 million Capital: Sanaa, Aden declared economic capital when North and South Yemen merged in 1990. Area: 536,869 sq km; bordered by Saudi Arabia, Oman, the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean. Armed Forces: 42,000, with reserves of 40,000. The army has 37,000 men, the navy 1,500 and the air force

"As a result, there was a certain desire for revenge," he said. "That, coupled with the fundamentalist element resulted in a tinderbox atmosphere waiting to ignite. The ambassador asked the Interior Minister not to use

ployment about 35 per cent. A small oil producer, Yemen pumps about 390,000 barreis a day. Up to 30 foreign oil companies operate in its main oil fields. Tourism generated \$100m in 1997. Politics: Turkey withdrew from North Yemen in 1918, and Britain from South Yemen in 1967. More than

Economy: One of the poor-

est Arab nations: per capita

GDP of \$280 a year. Unem-

force, but the Yemenis went in in a gung-ho fashion. That was a mistake, as the deaths of the Britons testify." The Yemenis insisted the kldnappers began killing bostages before the rescue attempt.

100 kidnappings since 1992.

The Foreign Office said that passed on to the ambassador. yesterday morning Victor Hen-It is possible the Yemeni auderson, the British ambasthorities feit the need for decisador, met the Interior Minister. sive action because of the increasing number of such in-General Hussein Mohammed Arab and made clear that cidents. Three weeks ago other

The ambassador especially made it clear that no violence should take place and that the safety of the hostages was paramount," said the spokesman. "He made it clear that no rescue attempt should be made that put the bostages' lives at risk. We would regard that as

Britain wanted to see no mili-

tary intervention,

very specific request," However, Mr Henderson was forced to seek a second meeting with the minister when news of the rescue attempt was broken by Reuters news agency. It is not known how much detail of the attack was

contrast to other incidents well. Last April, David Mitchell, a Britisb Council worker in Aden, was kidnapped with his wife, Carolyn, and their son, Ben. They were released undefiance of a United Nations harmed after 17 days and said embargo, belping to restore a they were treated well.

government which had been Giorgio Bonanomi, a 49-yearold Italian tourist who was kidnapped last year said he enjoyed his five days as a prisoner enormously.

From now on, however, no one is likely to treat Yemeni kidgave evidence to a parliamentary select committee. napping with such levity.

Bodies of Chechnya victims returned to families

BY KATE WATSON-SMYTH

THREE WEEKS after the severed heads of the four kidnapped telecommunications workers were found by a road in Chechnya, their families were finally abie to collect their bodies yesterday.

The remains of the men, whose bodies were found on Christmas Day, were flown to Gatwick from Baku, in Azerbaijan. But although the relatives of Darren Hickey, Rudolf Petschi, Peter Kennedy and the New Zealander Stanley Shaw were relieved they had been brought home, they still face an agonising wait until the funerals.

A Foreign Office spokesman said the bodies would have to be formally identified and inquests opened hefore their relatives can bury them.

Mr Hickey's father, Eamonn, said: "It is a relief to have the feeling that they are finally coming bome. We are still devastated but at least there will be a funeral after all."

The men were kidnapped in the Chechen capital, Grozny, in October while working in the separatist Soviet republic. They had heen working for Granger Telecom, of Surrey, on a contract to instal telephone systems in Chechnya.

At the time of the kidnapping, Granger and British Telecommunications, which was employing Mr Kennedy, defended the decision to work in Chechnya, a territory the Foreign Office "strongly advises against" travelling to. The chief executive of Granger, Raymond Verth, said it was a "risk worth taking" for a deal worth a reported £190m.

The men's beads were found on 8 December after a bungled rescue attempt by the authorities but the kidnappers refused to hand over the rest of the remains. They were apparently demanding money and immunity from prosecution before they would release the

Foreign Office officials were also at the airport to meet the bodies yesterday, although no embassy staff had travelled on

A spokesman said the families could plan the funerals but it was not known when they will take place.

"The bodies are not in the families' possession because there are a number of formal procedures to go through hut they can make arrangements for the funerals."

Fears grow for Briton missing in Angola

THERE ARE growing fears for BY NICHOLAS SCHOON the British hostage Jason Pope, who was kidnapped in an attack on the Angolan diamond mine where he worked. There has been no contact with any group claiming to hold him, and the Foreign Office said it had no news of his fate.

The Unita rebel movement

which eight men died, but has denied taking hostages. The Foreign Office is advising Britons not to travel to Angola unless absolutely necessary. "It is worrying," a spokesman said. "No group has claimed responsibility." Ten employees of the Canadian Diamond Works company have been missing since the attack on the role of the military consul-Yetwene mine on 8 November. tant Tim Spicer, head of the porting arms to Sierra Leone in

Those captured were reported to have been marched into the bush. Mr Pope, a geologist aged 24 from Teignmouth, Devon, bad worked at an Australian gold mine before moving to Angola.

His parents, Alan and Genevra, have criticised the Foreign Office for revealing company at the centre of the arms-to-Africa affair, in attempts to trace their son.

Mr Spicer, the director of Sandline International, had been nominated by Diamond Works to represent the company in discussions with the Foreign Office.

His firm was embroiled in

ousted in a coup. His role in the Diamond Works kidnapping came to light when the Foreign Office's top civil servant, Sir John Kerr,

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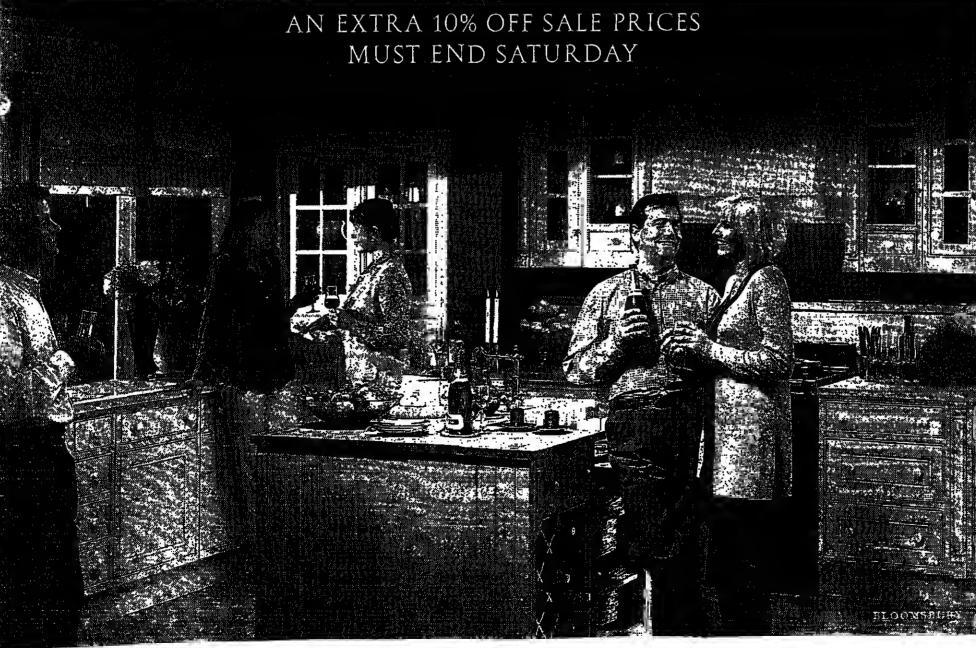
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Prescott bins the spin for real policies

THERE WAS a crisis in the BY COLIN BROWN Prescott camp this week. The Deputy Prime Minister and former Cunard steward was entertaining some of his old shipmates at his grace and favour flat in Admiralty House when his cooker broke.

Compared to catering for 13 people with no power, dealing with Peter Mandelson's resignation was plain sailing for the former merchant seaman.

John Prescott made it clear in interviews last week that he would not be rushing to welcome back Mr Mandelson to the Cabinet. He had even referred to the row between Mr Mandelson and Gordon Brown as the "cancer at the heart of it all", in remarks which were wrongly assumed to refer to Charlie Whe-

lan, the Chancellor's spin doctor Far from attacking the Brown camp, Mr Prescott has been busy this week - while Mr Blair is on holiday - consolidating an alliance with the Chan-cellor that could fill the vacuum left by Mr Mandelson at the

heart of the Blair government. Mr Prescott told The Indeendent that he wanted to steer the Government away from spin

Chief Political Correspondent

and back to the delivery of policies. "We need to get away from rhetoric and back onto the substance of government." he said. The Deputy Prime Minister

is intent on a new style of interventionism, which challenges the free-market tone of the competition White Paper published by Mr Mandelson weeks before his resignation.

"There is still an argument for industrial reorganisation, I still think there is a role for intervention - it's not like the 60s and 70s ... Now we are active

The alliance between Mr Brown and Mr Prescott will surprise many who believed they had a long-running feud as bitter as that between the Brown and Mandelson camps.

With the Chancellor, Mr Prescott is seeking a "cadre" of business expertise to put together more private finance for public sector schemes. Some may be startled by his support for big business, but he heaped praise on Geoffrey Robinson, the ex-paymaster-general also

forced to resign over his £373,000 loan to Mr Mandelson, for acting as the "midwife" bringing in private finance to public transport schemes.

The Chancellor and the Deputy Prime Minister could be accused of trying to turn back the clock to old Labour policies while the Blairites are off-guard over the resignation of Mr Mandelson, one of the key architects of New Labour.

But Mr Prescott rejected the notion, and insisted that Mr Mandelson's departure was not as significant as it had been claimed in the press. "I don't think that one individual has that kind of influence," he said. Referring to Mr Blair's de-

termination to carry on with the New Labour project, Mr Prescott made it clear he regards the "project" as Labour's manifesto programme. The project is to do what we

said we would do when we came into office, which is to have a fairer Britain and a better Britain, I don't think any government has done more than we have done in 18 months." In opposition, there was al-

camp as he tried to challenge

for control of economic strate-

gy. Mr Prescott decided in the

run-up to the General Election that there was more to be gained from an alliance. There is a myth that Gordon and I don't get on. There was the early days in opposition

where of course we were in con-

Mr Prescott and the Brown which I said he was trying to dominate everything. That was seen as an attack. Since then ... many of the things I am trying to do couldn't have been done without Gordon - and not necessarily with the agreement of

the Treasury." Treasury officials "bitterly resisted" the deal in which Mr Prescott will be allowed to earmost open warfare between flict, and there was a speech in mark money raised from tolls

or congestion charging on motorists for enhanced public transport. In spite of scepticism, Mr Prescott insisted the money raised from motorists would go on public transport, because he has to vet the schemes.

"That was between Gordon changes in the public finances. Brown is a radical guy in these areas," Mr Prescott said. "Our

relationship is excellent and has been for quite a while. There is less tension between us because it's quite clear I need to get some of the changes in the financial rules to be able to deliver - and it helps Gordon on the public finances by avoiding more public borrowing."

That deal has turned Mr

the Regions into Whitehall's first tax raising ministry apart from the Treasury. "Because of its size and breadth ... it's becoming a very important economic department, which is not realised by people," Mr Prescott said. "We are a massive deliverer, particularly when we have decided that public expenditure is there to uphold the economy in the tradi-

David Rose



John Prescott: We need to get away from rhetoric and back on to the substance of government'

Prescott's massive department tional Keynesian way." MPs watchdog turns

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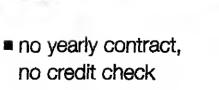


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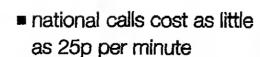


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orange - butchison teleson sights on ministers PARLIAMENT'S anti-sleaze com- BY PAUL WAUGH of the Commons Standards and missioner has revealed that she Political Correspondent

could take on new powers to police ministers in the aftermath of the Mandelson affair.

Elizabeth Filkin, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, suggested yesterday that ministers should come under the same scrutiny mechnism as backbench MPs.

Ms Filkin's remarks are the clearest sign yet that the whole system of policing ministerial misconduct is set for reform in the light of Peter Mandelson's undeclared £373,000 loan from the former paymaster-general, Geoffrey Robinson.

At present, the commissioner can only launch inquiries into MPs who fail to detail gifts and directorships in the register of members' interests. The power to investigate breaches by ministers is held by the Prime Minister and the Cabinet Secretary.

Tony Blair is under pressure from MPs on all sides to change the system. Many want the UK to follow the lead of the United States and several European countries where governments are not allowed to carry out investigation their own members.

Ms Filkin told BBC Radio 4's World At One that she believed the Neill Committee on Standards in Public Life was right to examine the regulation of ministers. "It may be that it would be a better arrangement to have investigations - when they are needed - to cover both MPs and what they do in relation to the House of Commons and indeed, what they do if they happen to be in ministerial positions."

Ms Filkin's remarks were welcomed by leading members Privileges Committee, who also called for independent scruti-

Dale Campbell Savours, MP for Workington and a member of the committee, said that the proposal was "the only way forward". He added: "We just can't have prime ministers put in the position where they are asking questions about the private lives and affairs of fellow ministers. It can only be done by an independent body answerable to Parliament,"

Rhodri Morgan, chairman of the Commons Public Administration Committee, agreed that extending the watchdog's remit

would end the current "farce". Ms Filkin's predecessor, Si Gordon Downey, has described the omission of powers to regulate ministers as a "gap" in his remit. The Neill Committee will examine the issue next year.

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Woodward lawyer accuses brother

ESTHER LEACH

MORE THAN a year after a Massachusetts jury convicted the British au pair, Louise Woodward, of murdering Matthew Eappen, the baby in ber care, one of her defence lawyers has suggested that the head injury that caused the child's death might have been inflicted by his elder brother.

In a startling interview with Lawyers Weekly, Harvey Silverglate conceded that Woodward's defence team made a mistake by not trying to implicate somebody else in the crime.

"In retrospect, we would have tried it differently," he said. He also revealed that while they maintained a calm demeanour in public, Woodward's parents were "hysterical" about their daughter's plight.

Specifically, Mr Silverglate, who led Woodward's defence with his law firm partner, told the American legal journal that they had "some stuff" that would have called into question the conduct of other members of the Eappen family, including the brother, Breodan.

"We didn't cast any aspersions, any hlemishes on the Eappens. That was our plan. We bad loads of witnesses prepared to do it." Mr Silverglate



Harvey Silverglate: Brendan is a 'wild child'

said. "I can tell you that we had some stuff, and I'm not going to tell you what it was .

He added: "The issue of whether the older hrother is well-behaved or not; well, that's relevant."

Mr Silverglate made the comments after being named one of the top 10 lawyers in Massachusetts by Lawyers Weekly. They are doubly cootroversial because they come on the eve of the civil trial in the case, which is scheduled to begin in Boston next week.

It could result in Woodward, on the hasis of her manslaughter cooviction, being ordered to pay tens of millions of dollars in damages to the Eappens.

Last night, Steve Collins, a Woodward family friend, said

would comment. But he added: "It was a lawyer's comment in a lawyers' magazine meant purely for the professionals. It was an argument at the back of our minds at the time of the criminal case, but I believe that Louise's lawyers played it right.

"They were sensitive to how a jury might react to big Iswyers hlaming a young baby for the death of his brother. Maybe they could have placed the idea in the minds of the jury, but they decided to defend Louise rather than to attack the Eappen family, which I think was the right thing to do."

The latest revelation could encourage Woodward's lawyers to stage a more vigorous defence at the civil trial and use it, effectively, to retry the eotire case and attempt once more to prove her innocence.

Frederic Ellis, who will represent the Eappeos in that trial, called the remarks "totally improper". He said: "The Eappen family has suffered enough. They certainly don't oeed these aspersions cast oo them."

Wendy Murphy, a former

chusetts also lashed out at Mr Silverglate, "He should be named top-10 scumbag of the year. It's one thing to point the finger at an innocent person as a matter of strategy during a trial, but to do something so cruel after the fact is absolutely outrageous."

While there were rumours during the trial that Woodward's lawyers were ready to shift the blame on Brendan, who was two at the time, they demurred for fear of antagonising the jury. They relied oo their central contention that Matthew died not from a violent shaking hut from a minor, three-week-old injury that left a blood clot which eventually exploded catastrophically inside his skull.

Mr Silverglate refused to clarify yesterday what evidence he might have presented to implicate Brendan. He simply told Lawyers Weekly: "We possibly made a mistake not bringing out that the parents were imperfect, that the older hrother was imperfect. The older brother in fact was quite a wild kid."



حكدًا من الأجل

Sunil Eappen, carrying baby Matthew on his back, and his wife Deborah, holding Matthew's brother Brendan. One of Louise Woodward's defence team has suggested that Brendan may have caused Matthew's death

Heads seek term-time holiday ban

HEAD TEACHERS today called BY JUDITH JUDD for a change in the law to stop parents taking their children on holiday during term time,

which is happening more often. The National Association of Head Teachers said rising divorce rates meant children often took two holidays, one with each parent. It also blamed work pressures, which meant parents took holidays at employers' convenience, and an increase in the number of fam-

ilies taking two holidays a year. In addition, some ethnic mi-India or the Caribbean in November and December or be-

tween January and March. David Hart, the association's general secretary, said: "The law permits pupils 10 days' authorised absence per school year, but parents are increasingly taking advantage by ceating this as a right.

"It iswrong that parents can-not, or will oot, find time for holidays within the existing 14-week 'eovelope'. The travel industry's promotion of cheap family bolidays in term time is a major contributory factor.

The law is out of date and totally at odds with the Government's drive to raise standards." He added that pareots

Education Editor

were increasingly ignoring schools' requests not to take their children oo bobday during term, meaning children might miss national curriculum tests and fall behind with vital work. One secondary school had recorded more than 1,000 days lost to bolidays last year.

The Department for Education and Employment is bolding talks with the travel industry about the problem.

sociation of Britisb Travel Agents said: "Tour operators are not actively promoting cheap family bolidays in term time. They are simply in the brochures at different prices.

"It is a question of supply and demand; the six weeks of the summer holiday tend to be when most people want to go."

Margaret Morrissey, press officer for the National Confederation of Parent Teacher Associations, said the Government attitude was contradictory. It allowed pareots to take children out of school for two weeks a year, but theo penalised schools by including these absences in the league tables.

Big car quality in a small car

Christmas sales soar on Internet

INTERNET COMMERCE, still in its infancy in Britain, is in Washington exploding in America. Sales of goods over the Internet this Christmas were three to four times up on last year, according to preliminary figures.

The Bostoo Consulting Group (BCG) and Shop.org, the electronie retailers' industry group, estimated that revenue for the holiday season grew 230 per cent, with the average amount spent rising to \$55. The Interpublic Group of Companies, an advertising group, es-timated that online Christmas saleswould reach \$5bn, four times higher than in 1997. While this is still a tiny per-

ceotage of all shopping, it marks something of a milestone, according to firms that monitor online shopping.

"This holiday season marks the year that online retailing moved from an interesting consumer experiment to an accepted retail alternative," said BCG's vice-president, David Pecaut, "The 24 hour-aday access to Internet stores, no crowds and the convenience of shipping gifts directly to family and friends have struck a chord with a rapidly growing segment of wired consumers.

IN BRIEF

Bomb attack on Catholic family

LOYALISTS WERE being blamed yesterday for a bomb at-tack on a Catholic family in Armagh on Monday night. A blast bomb shattered the window of Kay O'Connor's bome showering ber with glass. She and her three children, who were in bed, were unharmed.

50,000 free nursery places

AN EXTRA 50,000 free nursery places for three-year-olds will be available next year, the Government announced yesterday. It is committed to double the proportion of three-year-olds with nursery places by 2002.

Huge leap in rail fares

SOME TRAIN fares are set to rise by up to 24 per cent, Save Our Railways said yesterday. The pressure group found that half of unregulated fares go up on 4 January, including the London to Birroingham first-class return, which rises 23.5 per cent.

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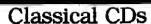
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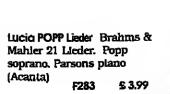


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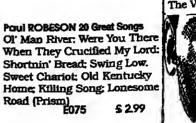
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Police * criticised over use of batons

POLICE CHIEFS were urged By Jason Bennetto yesterday to abandon the use of "aggressive" American-style tactics when training their officers to use batons.

A report by the independent Police Complaints Authority also expresses concern that British officers are being taught to strike people on their kneecaps and shins, despite those spots being particularly vulnerable to fractures.

The organisation warns that the use of these tactics may be responsible for a rise in the .. _nber of complaints about batons. A study - Striking the Balance - into the use of new types of police baton follows a number of complaints - up to 454 - in the past year. In its report, published today, the PCA calls for greater use of refresher training for officers, which appeared to be very effective in reducing complaints.

Batons hegan to replace 11-inch wooden truncheons century - about five years ago.

The PCA found that most complaints were associated with side-handled batons - the longest and heaviest of the types in use, and deployed in 23 forces across England and Wales. These attracted an average of 3.3 complaints per 1,000 officers using them.

It also raised particular concern about the Asp baton - an expandable wand with a metal tip, used by 12 forces, which was introduced from the US with hardly any changes to the training manual.

One consequence of this was that officers were trained to stand ready to strike with the baton resting on the shoulder, head or another dangerous hearing next month.

Crime Correspondent

area. The Asp attracted 2.38 complaints per 1,000 officers. Peter Moorhouse, chairman of the PCA, said: "Police forces should amend their American batons training manuals to take account of the less aggressive style of policing in this country and provide refresher training for all officers."

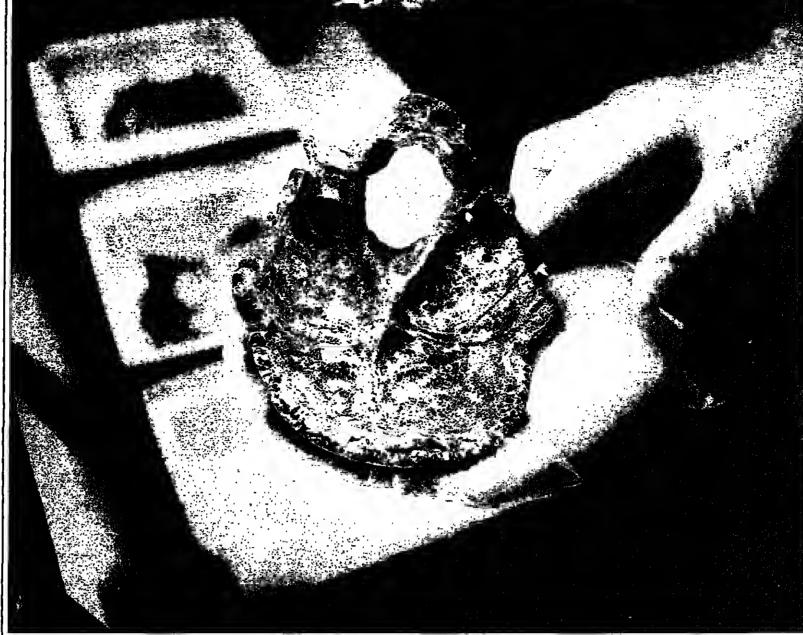
The equipment receiving fewest complaints was used by only a handful of forces: the Casco type, used by five forces, which attracted 1.9 complaints per thousand officers; and the fixed-length Arnold, used by four 10 per cent increase in the forces, including the Metropolitan Police, with 1.78 complaints.

The report also urged police to rethink the areas of the body which were considered target areas. It expressed particular concern that the shin, which could he fractured, was a primary target area and the kneejoint, which could be dislocated first issued to police in the last or fractured in a baton blow, was a secondar, et area.

The new bator lave been introduced along with rigid handcuffs, CS s, v and body armour, to give officers grater protection. There were 15,4% assaults on officers in 1996-97.

The cases dealt with by the PCA include a police sergeant, found guilty in October of assaulting a man with an Asp baton. The officer, who had been called to a domestic incident, struck the man on the shoulder. The sergeant was convicted of assault and forced to resign. He plans to appeal.

In March, an 18-year-old man claimed he was struck on the head with an extendable sidehandled baton as be walked which put the suspect at risk of away from a football ground. being hit, unintentionally, on the The officer faces a disciplinary



The Swanscombe skull yesterday going on display for two weeks at the Museum of London in the City. The fragments, which date from around 400.000BC and are from the oldest skull found in Britain, were uncovered near Dartford, Kent, in the Thirties and Fifties

Chefs in a stew over modified foods

MANY OF Britain's leading chefe have agreed to banish gen, cally modified food from their kitchens and press the Government for a five-year moratorium on such foods being sold in shops.

Nico Ladenis and Raymond Blanc are among the 19 chefs who have agreed to back a Friends of the Earth campaign to halt the sale of genetically engineered food until more is known about its impact on

health and the environment, Pete Riley, a campaigner at FoE, said the people who cared most about food were nearly unanimous in their disapproval of scientific tinkering.

BY SARAH WILSON

Shaun Hill, the chef and proprietor of the Merchant House restaurant in Ludlow, Shropshire, said: "It is the same sets of voices who gave us battery food that are now pushing genetic engineering. I'm very suspicious of their motives.

"There are just too many question marks hanging over this new technology. It is about time the Government learnt from the mistakes of the past and stopped people messing about with our food."

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presided over restaurants who madness, albeit perfectly legal won the highest rating in this year's Good Food Guide.

Among them was Waldow's, the restaurant at Cliveden, the stately home in Berkshire once owned by Waldorf Astor. chickens in the name of cheap Ian Samson, head chef at the adjoining Terrace restaurant. said the introduction of genetically modified food was a "frightening prospect" as the safety of the technology was

The Good Food Guide's editor, Jim Ainsworth, said: "To introduce 'experimental' berbicide-resistant, genetically All the chefs who agreed to modified, crops without some

madness. If BSE has taught us anything, it is surely to he cautious about tampering with natural processes, however well intentioned, however plausibly the benefits are packaged."

Philip Howard, the head chef at The Square restaurant in London, agreed. "It is only now that we are beginning to realise how using steroids, growth promoters and antibiotics has trashed the flavour of what we eat," he said.

Although genetically modified crops are not yet being grown commercially in the UK. such food is being sold in the back the FoE campaign soundly based assurance is high street shops and super-

markets, Safeway and Sainshury's sell purée made from modified tomatoes grown in North America, said Mr Riley.

The alteration of foodstuffs and additives such as lecithin, a soya by-product which is used as an emulsifier in ice-cream and chocolate, was very difficult to detect, he added. Current legislation does not require manufacturers to label those products that contained certain modified ingredients.

It was ironic that the restaurants in the House of Commons had banned genetically modified food, yet the Government were still allowing it to be sold to the public, Mr Riley said.

PR firm to boost lawyers' image

By IAN BURRELL Home Affairs Correspondent

TIRED OF being the butt of endless dinner party jokes, the nation's solicitors have hired a team of spin doctors to get rid

of their "fat cat" public image. The Law Society, stung by government criticism of the legal aid earnings of top lawyers, has employed a London PR firm, Biss Lancaster, to persuade the public that solicitors are not greedy moneygrabbers but champions of justice. Women's magazines, tabloid newspapers and daytime television programmes will be targeted.

A spokesman for the Law Society. David McNeill, said the profession was dogged by myths that lawyers increased acrimony in marital break-ups and other disputes as they sought to maximise their profits. He said: "These myths have existed since Shakespeare's time but they allow governments to get away with lawyerbashing when they want to do things like cut legal aid. It's time to fight back."

During the recent debate on the future of the legal aid system, the Government was critical of lawyers' earnings, even "naming and shaming" those who made the most money from criminal legal aid cases. The Law Society called in PR consultants after a members' survey earlier this year revealed that solicitors believed they were held in low esteem.

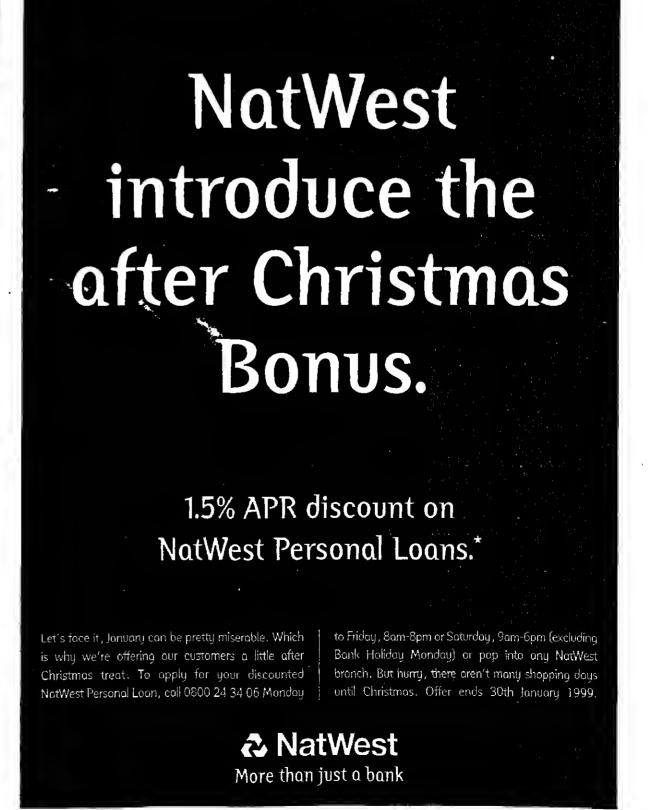
Mr McNeill said: "The profession felt that its reputation was under pressure." He said the society's new president, Michael Matthews, recognised the need to improve the profession's image as part of a major reform programme.

Biss Lancaster will advise the society until next summer. Graham Lancaster, the PR company's chairman, said he aimed to make the Law Society more effective in reacting to news" and "more focused in its messages". He will also seek to raise the profile of lawyers by making the public aware of the existence of legal activity in "almost all areas of British life".



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Blair treads softly on new currency

THE ANTIS

By Andrew Grice **Political Editor**

"WE HAVE to fight back against all this nonsense," Tony Blair told one of his closest advisers as he surveyed another day of damaging headlines about how an EU-wide tax policy was going to be imposed on Britain.

According to aides, the Prime Minister recognised that his twin-track strategy of appeasing Britain'a Eurosceptic newspapers while the Government adopted a pro-European policy was no longer tenable.

"He finally realised that we were not going to get anywhere in Europe unless we took on the Europhobe press," said a government source. "For him it was a very serious moment."

dum that Mr Blair is expected A referendum on whether to call shortly after the next Britain should join the single general election. The pace of currency is still some years the great debate will quicken in away, but the starting gun for January when Gordon Brown, the campaign will be fired on the Chancellor, publishes a na-1 January when the euro is tional changeover plan setting launched by 11 other Euroout what steps Britain needs to pean Union countries. take to prepare for euro entry.

The "yes" and 'no" camps already exist in embryonic form and they agree that 1999 could THE PROS

be critical in shaping public

opinion ahead of the referen-

Pro-euro husinessmen and

the Liberal Democrats hope Mr

Leaders: The all-party European Movement (Giles Radice, Labour MP); Lord Hollick, newspaper proprietor (left): Kenneth Clarke, former Tory chancellor, Peter Mandelson, former cabinet minister; Paddy Ashdown Position: Want early declaration hy the Government that it intends joining single currency Strengths: Strong all-party base; business back-up Weaknesses: Tony Blair reluctant to come off fence Prospects: Will run disciplined campaign; successful euro launch

vould strengthen position change the Government's policy to one of "not if, but when" in effect, a declaration. Yet Mr Blair is unlikely to harden the policy of the Government, which is committed to monetary union in principle but insists the key tests on whether to join will be economic. "There will a more pro-European tone, but the policy won't change," one

minister said. Nevertheless, supporters of

common EU tax policy.

Lord Rothermere.

Some husinessmen are

sceptical about the Prime Min-

ister's keenness to take on

such Eurosceptics as Rupert

Murdoch, Conrad Black and

Ministers close to Mr Blair

William Hague; European Foundation (Bill Cash, Tory MP); European Research Group (Sir Michael Spicer, Tory MP); Democracy Movement (Paul Sykes, tiusinessman, left): Austin Mitchell (Labour MP); Business for Sterling (Lord Stirling)
Position: Divided between "never" and "not for two Parliaments* (Hague) Strengths: Will play on people's EU doubts: backers' money Weaknesses: Thirty-plus groups

Prospects: May be battling

against tide of history

Leaders: Baroness Thatcher;

crossed the Rubicon. "The Gov-Prime Minister is edging slowly in their direction: they welernment's duty is to lead opinion, not follow it," said one. comed his fightback against Mr Blair knows that saying the Eurosceptic press during the recent controversy over a

"ves" to the euro now would provoke divisions in the Cabinet and the Labour Party. He is attracted by a "slowly, slowly" strategy in which public hos-tility to the euro dissipates after a successful launch. Keeping his options open will allow Mr Blair to argue that oppo-

vote Labour at the next general election, knowing they could

then vote "no" in a referendum. Another factor the Prime Minister would be considering is the elections to the European Parliament in June - a big test of public opinion. The Tories will fight strongly on European is-sues. William Hague needs to make big gains to bolster his position as Tory leader, and his allies believe he can unite his Blair will use the occasion to a single currency concede the helieve. however, he has nents of the euro could safely party around his policy of ruling

out single currency membership during this Parliament and the next. The Tories should do well; the introduction of proportional representation will help them. But the key question will be whether the pro-European heavyweights, like Kenneth

THE 'NOT YETS'

Leaders: Lord Owen (left.

and SDP leader); Lord Prior

executive. Barclays Bank)

euro now, hut still play a

positive role in the EU

former Labour foreign secretary

Clarke and Michael Heseltine. keep their heads down. Labour will develop a "pro-Europe, but pro-reform in Eu-

painting it as a federalist party which swallows all the medicine

prescribed by Brussels. The lesson of the 1975 referendum, when the British people voted by a margin of 2-1 to stay in the then Common Market, bodes well for the "yes"

Although the "no" campaign ganisations in the Euroscephic camp. A more formal structure may be set up later this year, but one participant admitted: "It will be very difficult to get

"yes" campaign is applying the "command and control" strategy which served Labour so

well at the last general election. What the public makes of the great euro debate is another matter. At present, they are "switched off". But they will certainly notice the frantic activity of the next six months.

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(former Tory cabinet "wet"); Martin Taylor (former chief campaign. The "no" camp will try to prevent the debate being Position: Britain should not join turned into one about Britain's engagement in Europe. Strengths: Cannot be tarnished will probably have more money as anti-European; respected group of elder statesmen at its disposal, it may suffer from internal differences. taknesses: Difficult message to project; must avoid looking There are more than 30 orlike band of vesterday's men Prospects: May be outflanked by "yes" and "no" campaigns

> everyone to work together. In contrast, the putative

rope" strategy, in the hope of preventing the Tories from

Britons expect to join euro

DESPITE CONTINUED wide- By JOHN CURTICE spread opposition to the euro. a clear majority believes that Britain will join eventually. At the beginning of this

month, a poll found 53 per cent of Britons would vote against joining if a referendum were held now. Only 29 per cent would vote in favour while the rest said they did not know. But yesterday, a Gallup poli showed that four-fifths of the

electorate believed it was inevitable that Britain would join the euro "sooner or later". Equally, 58 per cent recent-

ly told ICM that Britain could not afford to stay out of the euro if it proved to be a success. Moreover, there are clear

signs of flux. Opposition rose after Britain was forced out of the euro's predecessor, the exchange rate mechanism (ERM), in 1992. And it ratcheted up again in the wake of the banning of British beef from European markets in 1996.

The same effect has been seen in recent weeks. When the spectre of European tax harmonisation was raised in November, opinion once again swung against the euro.

What the pro-single currency campaign needs is good news from Europe. Lower mortgage rates might, for example, prove an attraction; yet so far only one in ten of us recognise it as such.

And, of course, the pro-single currency campaign needs

the backing of the Government. Until recently, there were signs of a slow drift in favour of the

A 27-point lead for opponents of Economic and Mone-tary Union (EMU) just before last year's general election had dropped to 19 points by September. But that gain largely disappeared after the tax harmonisation row.

This Government makes rather friendlier noises about Europe than the previous Conservative one. But it will need a far more clear and sustained lead from ministers if public

opinion is to he changed. The Government, of course, will worry about the media. Yet whether individual newspapers have much influence on their readers is doubtful.

After all, readers of the largely pro-European Mirror are less keen on a single currency than are those of the Eurosceptic Daily Telegraph. What appears to matter is not how newspapers slant the news, but whether the news they have to report is good or bad for the single currency in the first place.

The challenge for those who wish to join the euro is to make w" sure the news is good.

John Curtice is deputy director of the ESRC Centre for Research into Elections and Social Trends



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Khmer Rouge leaders apologise

TWO LEADERS of the Cambo- BY KER MUNTHIT dian Khmer Rouge said yes- in Phnom Penh terday they were "very sorry" about the genocide of the 1970s to the capital Phnom Penh to although they refused to accept surreoder to the Prime Minisresponsibility for the slaughter ter, Hun Sen, after he pledged of about two million of their they would not face trial for

Khieu Samphan and Nuon Chea were flown by helicopter ists, many of them Cambodians from a former rebel stronghold who lost family members, if

crimes against humanity.

They were asked by journal-

deaths of up to 2 million people.

"Yes, sorry, very sorry," Khieu Samphan said, "We would like to apologise and ask our compatriots to forget the past so our oation can concentrate oo the future," he said.

"Let bygones be bygones." After the Khmer Rouge revolutionaries emerged victorious

in a civil war in 1975 they forced fields" yesterday dismissed the the population into slave labour apology. Bun Sray, 38, a civil sercamps, One Cambodian in five perished from overwork, star-

The Khmer Rouge and their chief, Pol Pot, were overthrown in 1979 by the Vietnamese, but spent the next two decades fighting on in the countryside.

vation, disease and executions. lost under their regime. Now I want to kill their wives and children and then say sorry."

Keo Rotana, 45, said: "More than 10 of my family were killed in their regime and Khieu Sam-Survivors of the "killing phan says sorry." (AP)

vant, said: "Millions of lives, in-

cluding 20 of my relatives, were

Saddam puts pressure on no-fly zones

SADDAM HUSSEIN yesterday stepped up his goading of the United States and Britain as part of an apparent strategy to provoke further military achon against him and thus build up sympathy for Iraq's plight in the outside world.

A day after US jets attacked an Iraqi air defence installation which had earlier fired missiles against them in the northern "no-fly" zone, Baghdad's Vice Presideot said Iraq would continue to fire at aircraft entering the zones in the country's north and south. He claimed Irao's planes were operating once more in the two areas, in defiance of the Allied ban. "We are doing this right now; Iraqi planes are, in effect, flying in a oormal fashion in Iraqi air space," Taha Yassin Ramadan said last night, underlining how Iraq has never recognised the two zones. This constitutes the first breach of the "oo-fly" regimes since 1996.

The first zone was imposed in 1991 to protect the Kurdish population in the north, the second a year later to safeguard

Shia Muslims in the south. This latest defiance, less than two weeks after the end of the American and British air

BY RUPERT CORNWELL

strikes, is generally seen as another ploy to present Iraq as the victim of bullying by Washington and London, and to bolster President Saddam's case for a lifting of United Nations sanctions. But his adversaries were

oot rising to the bait. The Pentagon said US overflights, suspended yesterday because of bad weather, would resume when conditions improved. British officials said: "It is not out of character for Saddam to try and provoke". Both countries rejected Iraqi claims, repeated yesterday, that one Western plane had heeo shot down during the earlier attacks, in which four Iraqi soldiers are said to have been killed.

However, if Baghdad is seeking to rebuild support in Arab capitals, it is going about it in a strange way. The Deputy Prime Minister, Tariq Aziz, lashed out at the Egyphan President, Hosni Mubarak, for blaming Iraq rather than the US for the four days of air at-

tacks before Christmas. In another setback for Iraq. a meeting of Arab foreign ministers set for today, which might have criticised the military

strikes and recommended that Arab countries ignore internahonal sanctions, was postponed until 24 January. Among the Arab countries, only Libya has come out unequivocally in support of Iraq.

Neither is the invective helping Iraq's attempts to exploit the split among UN Security Council members on how to handle President Saddam. France, which broadly supports a lifting of sanctions, has drawn Iraq's fire by suggesting that the spending of oil income should be permanently monitored by the UN to prevent Baghdad using the money to buy arms.

Lately there have even been hints from Iraqi officials of an end to the oil-for-food programme. which allows Iraq to sell up to \$5.25bn of oil every six mooths for essential food and medical supplies. Iraq claims it cannot sell that amount of oil because of low oil prices and a ban oo purchases of equipment to maintain the fields.

Britain and the US say President Saddam is deliberately under-using the programme but, none the less, they have made a proposal to broaden the scheme.

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Sierra Leone town New move to falls to rebel army

REBEL FORCES in Sierra By James Roberts Leone fighting to oust President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah have taken control of the ceotral town of Makeni, observers said yesterday. The strategic town. 75 miles north-east of the capital, Freetown, was the scene of recent heavy fighting.

The Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels forced a start shelling the city. Sierra Vest African peace-keeping rece to retreat from Makeni, triggering the flight of the Ukraine are fighting alongside town's entire population of the rebels, though that has not

The RUF has launched a series of offeosives in recent weeks to recapture ground lost in Freetown on Sunday night. to the Nigerian-led peacekeepers earlier in the year.

Diplomats from West Africa. the United States and Britain, meeting on Monday in the Ivory Coast capital of Abidjan, called alore aid to help defend Sierra Leone's embattled

Nigeria has assumed the nationals to leave the country. | necessary". (AP)

halt fighting in Kosovo

ABOUT A hundred observers were oo their way to Kosovo vesterday to shore up efforts to majority of responsibilities for the peace-keeping force, known control fighting in the Serbian province between the authorias Ecomog. The US and Britain hes and rebel Albanians. have provided logistical support for the regional task force. Their arrival will boost the

Rebel units claim to have Kosovo mission to 700 people. come within 12 miles of the cap-A total of 2,000 are expected to ital and have threatened to be in place by mid-January, said a spokesman for the Organi-Leone claims that mercenaries sation for Security and Coopfrom Liberia, Burkina Faso and eration in Europe, which runs the operation. Violence last week around

Podnievo in the north of the Nigeria flew two more province, almost shattered a US-brokered truce established battalions to bolster its forces in October, Yesterday Nato said it remained "ready to inter-The peace-keepers are also exvene" if violence intensified and pecting reinforcements from demanded that both sides re-President Kabbah has ofspect the informal truce. fered to negotiate with the

A spokesman for the Kosorebels but they have declined. vo Liberation Army said the claiming they will storm the rebels would respect the ceasecapital unless he resigns. The fire, "but we will defend ourselves with all means if fighting has forced most foreign

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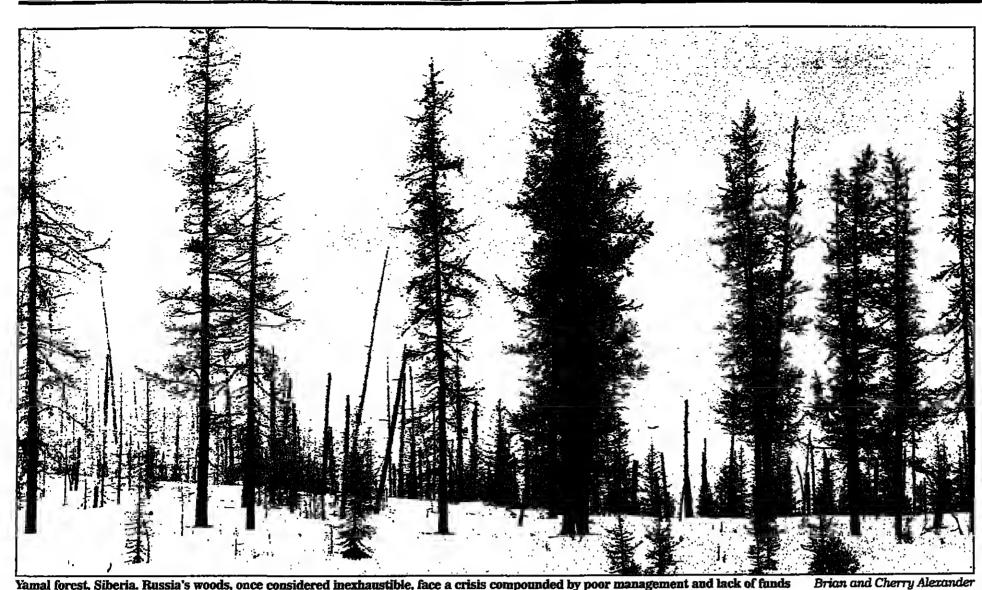
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Russia's forests in retreat

SEIZING THE moment when Christmas trees are in the public consciousness, the Russian branch of Greenpeace has launched a campaign for more rational use of the forests that are potentially one of Russia's greatest assets.

At present they are wasted and the forestry industry joins most other sectors in depression and crisis. Absurdity begins at the Christmas-tree markets that have sprung up in Moscow and other cities so that Russians can take home the traditional yolka (fir) for New Year celebrations. The former Soviet Union occupies a sixth of the world's land surface and much is covered by evergreens. Yet the bestshaped firs at the Moscow market are from Denmark and cost \$50 (£31) a metre, a month's salary for the average Russian.

. :

BY HELEN WOMACA in Moscow

trees much more cheaply but we are badly organised," said Igor Babanin, of Greenpeace. "The Danish farm their firs as the Dutch grow tulips. We do have a few evergreen plantations in the Moscow region but most Russians prefer to steal from nature than to huy." Last New Year, Igor pa-

trolled commuter trains with forestry inspectors and fined citizens coming into town with illegally felled firs, "Most of the people were innocent. They had bought the trees from cowboy operators. They are the real menace. They go into the forests and cut down far more trees than are needed. Then, after New Year, piles of firs are left rotting in the streets."

The waste in the Christmas-

year because of the way it Rosleskhoz, the state organipistol-toting security guards.

paid when a tree is cut, regardless of how the wood is to be used. In Russia, the cutting goes untaxed, as dues are supposed to be paid later, when the wood is processed. Dishonest or financially strapped firms underestimate the amount of processing and less tax reaches the state coffers.

In most countries, tax is

Timber is valued by the Finnish tax man at \$50 per cubic metre and even east European trees are worth \$10.

times, when the blessing of nataxes the forest industry. This ture were supposed to be free month, Greenpeace activists to Soviet man," said Alexei tried to climb on to the roof of Yaroshenko, a Greenpeace biologist and forest expert, "But sation that supervises the in- it makes no economic sense. dustry, to highlight the problem. Some members of the State But they were brought down by Duma saw our protest on television and came to talk to us. They were working out the 1999 budget and were inter-

> In all likelihood, Russia's tax anomalies will be ironed out over time. If that was the only problem, Greenpeace could be confident. But the organisation is raising the alarm over the disappearance of the forests themselves.

ested in our arguments."

"Russia is such a hig country that we have believed its resources were infinite," said Mr Yaroshenko. The truth is very But the cutting tax in Russia different." Greenpeace Is par-

words those that have never been touched by man. It is frightening how few are left.

In northern regions of Russia, such as Archangelsk, Komi and Karelia, only 12 per cent of the woods have grown naturally for centuries, while the rest are "secondary forests", poorer woods growing where old trees were cut down. "If we continue logging at the present rate, all the ancient forests this side of Siberia will be gone in 10 to 15 years," said Mr Yaroshenko.

The consequences of forest loss in Russia, just as in the Amazon and other parts of the world, will be devastating. Not only do the original forests contain millions of types of flora and fauna but they also regulate the world's climate. When destroyed, they release huge amounts of carbon, which heats

story. The state, desperate for is 50 cents per cubic metre. It ticularly concerned about what up the atmosphere. Green revenue, loses vast sums each is a hangover from Communist it calls ancient forests, in other peace says the remaining anpeace says the remaining ancient forests should be left alone and secondary forests and plantations should be better managed. With recycling technology, there is no reason why forests that have grown for 1,000 years should be cut down to make toilet paper.

One piece of news inspires Greenpeace this holiday season. After seeing the organisation's satellite maps of the world's dwindling ancient forests, the Svetagorsk pulp and paper mill, run by Swedes on Russian territory, became the first in the world to pledge to stop using wood from such forests.

"It's a drop in the ocean, hut it's a start," said Mr Yaroshenko. "Go to your supermarkets and DIY stores and demand that the products they sell are not made at the cost of our last natural heritage."

SEICENTO. BE SMALL AGAIN.

Greenwich means time

AMERICAN TIMES GREENWICH, CONNECTICUT

scratching their wellgroomed heads in search of lectmen" is higger even than a solution to the great milto spend New Year's Eve country associations. There 1999, now 12 months and a day away?

Forget what sport utility you park in your drive or which country club you frequent. In this town of conspicuous consumption, there s a new measure of success: what travel arrangements you have for the last days of next December.

My travel agent has bad news. Making it to the mid-Pacific and those few spots on the International Dateline that would allow me to celebrate the dawning of 2000 twice will be impossible.

Tonga, just west of the dateline, has 700 hotel rooms, know that one of my neighbours will be among the 88 lucky souls who have paid \$44,950 (£28,100) for a seat on a jet chartered by an outfit called TCS Expeditions with a special schedule for the millennium. It will first deposit passengers on Tonga for the first few hours of 1 January 2000 before whisking them to Samoa, just east of the dateline, to see in the new year several hours later.

But wait. Perhaps I need go nowhere. Greenwich, it seems, will be throwing a bash of its own that will offer residents a chance to emulate what others will be trying in the Pacific. We also will be able to cheer in the millennium not once, hut twice.

True, a degree of suspension of disbelief will be required. It will work like this: this Greenwich will for one night bask in the millennial glory that will belong to that other Greenwich, the one across the pond from which historically the world's time is measured. We will, in fact, pretend we are in the Greenwich of Wren and not in Connecticut. And why not? Greenwich, Connecticut, with

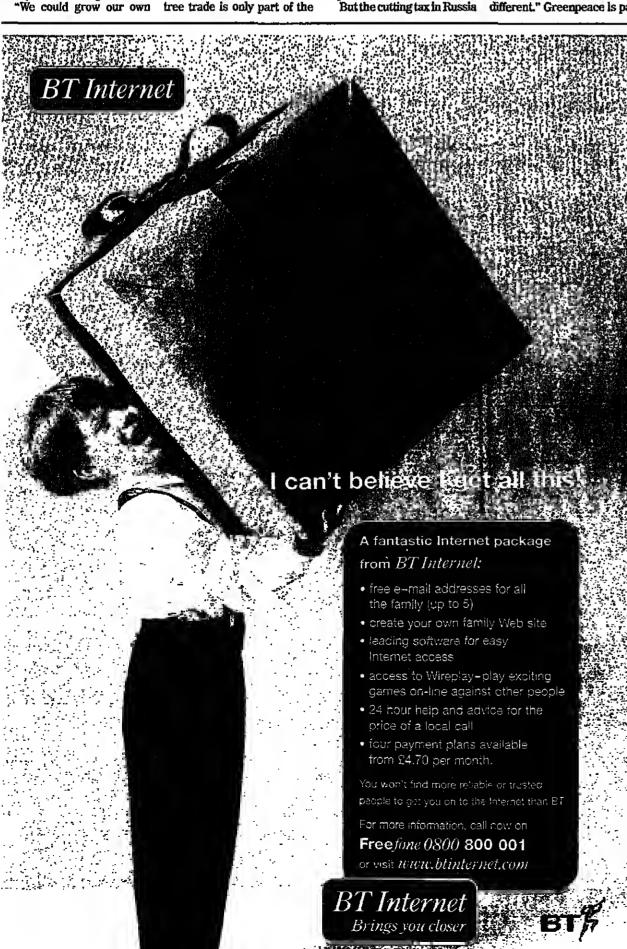
THEY HAVE been lying awake its watery situation and in Greenwich, Connecticut, grand civic pretensions - its assembly of so-called "sethe state legislature - has lennium conundrum. Where never been shy about its oldare no huildings by Wren in the town, but even its local newspaper makes a nod towards time-keeping: it is called the Greenwich Time and its logo is a clock.

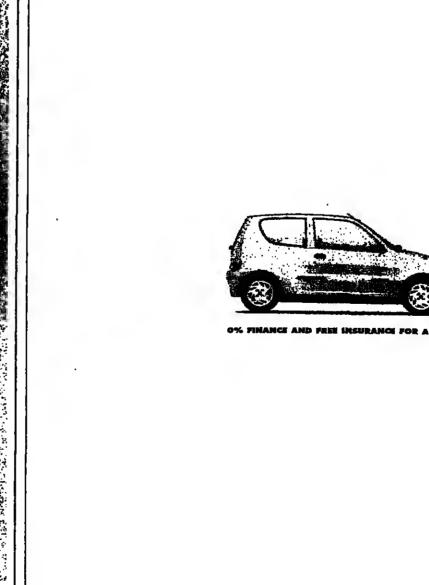
So, according to plans being laid by a body called the Greenwich 2000 Committee, the arrival of the new millennium will be celebrated here five hours earlier than anywhere else in the eastern United States. In other words, we will be free to pop our champagne corks at 7pm, when midnight will be strik-ing at the Royal Observatory in London. Tom Ragland, our First Selectman, thinks this hut all are taken. And I just a grand idea. "This will give me and many other Greenwich residents the opportunity to ring in the millennium and then get to bed by 9 o'clock," he said this week.

A variety of events are in the works: there will be exhibitions and lectures, and a mini-Stonehenge-like structure, representing a giant sundial, has been commissioned. The focus of the evening will be a party at the Hyatt Hotel, with hubble and squeak and warm beer. BBC coverage of events around midnight in Britain, including celebrations at the Dome and Observatory, will be beamed by satellite into the hotel and shown on giant screens in its

All this was the hrainchild of Ian Kerr, a Briton who has lived in Greenwich for 30 years and who heads the 2000 Committee. "Because of the name Greenwich and the name's association with time. we just said 'Let's do what they're going to be doing in Greenwich, England'," he said. "We want to be able to say we were present there, when the new millennium hit the world".

DAVID USBORNE





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Business & City Editor, Jeremy Warner News desk: 0171-293 2636 Fax: 0171-293 2098 E-mail: IndyBusinessi@Independent.co.uk

BUSINESS

BRIEFING

NatPower pulls out of Polish deal

NATIONAL POWER yesterday said that a lack of financial guarantees had prevented it from signing a deal to take a 20 per cent stake in Polish state power complex PAK.

"There were insufficient safeguards to make the investment," a National Power spokesman said. National Power had offered \$125m for the 20 per cent stake in a deal that was initially expected to be signed before Christmas.

The spokesman said the deal could be revived only if Poland could provide reassurances on the structure of markets and returns for National Power. The British company is believed to want pricing guarantees and purchase agreements extending over the next five years.

Poland's treasury ministry said last week that the deal foundered after National Power presented additional conditions which were not part of the original agreement.

Bass chief receives 97% pay rise



SIR IAN PROSSER, chairman and chief executive of hrewing group Bass, received a 97 per cent pay rise last year, which saw his annual pay packet soar to £1.6m. In addition to a basic £600.000 salary, Sir Ian (pietured) also received performance-related bonuses of £298,000, and options worth £717,000, the first tranche of shares in the long-term incentive

plan. Sir Ian's pay rise compares with a 75 per cent rise in profits in the group's husiness.

GEC narrows search for partner

GENERAL ELECTRIC Company yesterday confirmed it had narrowed its list of potential defence merger partners to four rival groups in Europe and the US. A spokeswoman confirmed reports that the shortlist included British Aerospace as well as US groups Lockhead Martin and Northrop and France's Thomson-CSF. "We have been been holding discussions. We are now making a decision."

Centrica raises £92m cash

CENTRICA. the gas distributor, yesterday announced that it had raised £92m in cash through the lease and buyback of two gas platform topsides in the Irish Sea to Bankers Trust. The 20-year agreement, which will reduce 1999 financing costs by 2.7 per cent, will not affect Centrica's licence interests, gas production or reserves, the company said. At the close of trading, Centrica shares bad gained 4 per cent to 122p.

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Recession fears deepen as business failures increase

YESTERDAY BROUGHT fresh By DIANE COYLE gloom about the state of the economy, with news of the first rise in business failures for six years. But one employers' organisation warned business against talking itself into a

recession in 1999. The number of business failures climbed to 38,634 in 1998 from 36,368 in 1997, according to Dun & Bradstreet. This was the first increase since 1992, at the bottom of the last recession.

Philip Mellor, an analyst at the business information service, warned: "I see this trend continuing for the next six director-general of the rival

Economics Editor

months." Interest-rate cuts should then start to take effect,

Mathew Farrow, head of the Confederation of British Industry's small business unit, said the figures confirmed other signs of an economic slowdown.

markedly more pessimistic in recent months, and the organisation has called for further interest-rate reductions.

But Tim Melville-Ross.

warned against taking too gloomy a view. Business leaders were in danger of talking themselves into a recession in 1999,

"Unfortunately, we are particularly good as a nation at persuading ourselves that the economic situation is worse than it is. But I firmly believe CBI surveys have become that business is capable of preventing a recession simply by avoiding talking about it as if it were inevitable," he said.

The CBI agreed that the level of business failures remained much lower than during the

reached a peak of 62,767 in 1992. in December, leaving the annu-"This supports the view that

although things may get worse, the downturn will not be as long or as deep as last time around," Mr Farrow said. The CBI has itself warned of the risk that recession could become a self-fulfilling prophecy.

Separate figures yesterday suggested that consumer spending and the housing market have continued to hold up well, despite signs that confidence about the economy's

prospects is slipping. The Nationwide reported a al rate almost unchanged at 7 per cent. The building society

down since the start of the year and confidence was weak. But it predicted that the housing market was in a good position to weather an economic downturn. Some areas such as Cambridge, Guildford and Islington in London - were

said sales were 12 per cent

excess of 20 per cent. David Parry, head of planning at Nationwide, said: "The strength of household finances

Institute of Directors, yesterday last recession. The figure 0.8 per cent rise in house prices will help the housing market weather any downturn."

The British Bankers Association, whose members include 10 of the country's 15 biggest mortgage lenders, said their new lending to homebuyers was

£1.1bn in November. This was above October's £922m and above the recent monthly average - even though banks have been losing market share to the remaining building still seeing annual price rises in societies.

The BBA also reported a strong increase in credit card borrowing and personal loans. totalling £6.5hn. in November.

Wetherspoon to create 2,000 jobs

THE FAST-GROWING pub chain By NICHOLAS SCHOON JD Wetherspoon defied fears of a recession and a share price es into a bewildering variety of collapse yesterday, announcing that it would create 2,000 new jobs in 1999.

It plans to spend £100m opening 80 new premises to add to the 306 it already owns. The new pubs will be sited in town and city centres.

who founded the company 19 years ago, said: "Since we opened our first pub we have traded in good and had economic times and it hasn't made a lot of difference."

Between April and September this year its share price halved, and has shown little sign of recovering since. Yesterday the shares closed down

pub drinkers. While breweries are end-

themed drinking dens, Wetherspoon rarely huys pubs.

Instead, it converts buildings such as banks, post offices and cinemas into large free houses and serves food in them all day as well as drink.

Music and television are The chairman Tim Martin, banned the latter even during the World Cup), as are karaoke and quiz nights. All its pubs provide non-smoking areas and closed-circuit television to deter

The chain is also willing to price beer aggressively and induige in loss leaders. Next month about half of its premises will be selling a leading bitter at 99p a pint. Last month it put large posters up in Calais, Even so. Mr Martin seems to the home of cheap beer, adverhave found a winning formula in tising the fact that two of its pubs the highly competitive and fast near Leeds would be selling ing market for Britain's John Smith's Yorkshire bitter at 500 a pint

and decaying licensed premis- clude managers, bar workers to go off and celebrate,

currently employs 7,900 staff. Its new premises will be opening in towns and cities in England. Scotland and Wales

Mr Martin, aged 43, started the business as a young law graduate from Nottingham university, when he sold a flat to finance the purchase of a single north London pub. He believes that Wetherspoon could more than triple in size to run over

"He senses that a lot of rival pubs are not particularly good, and there are still pleuty of towns where we've never been heard of," said company spokesman Eddie Gershon.

"Our (pubs) are clean, safe and straightforward and we welcome everyone, from students to pensioners." But Wetherspoon's quest for

new customers does not extend to what may be the most heavy Year's Eve. 1999. The company The new jobs, a mixture of full has already announced its pubs lessly converting unfashionable and part-time posts, will in- will shut at 8pm, allowing its staff



Wetherspoon plans to spend £100m opening 80 new city centre pubs John Laurence

Tarmac attacks AI over failed merger

TARMAC HAS launched a By Francesco Guerrera scathing attack on Aggregrate Industries over the last-minute collapse of their £1.8bn merger earlier this month, accusing the building materials group of reneging on an agreement over the management structure of the enlarged construction

The attack by Sir Neville mac clinches a £125m project under the Government's Private Finance Initiative (PFT) to extend the A55 from Llanfair to Holyhead - the first privatelyfinanced deal to be awarded in

The projects, won by a con-sortium including Tarmac, the contractor Laing and the consultant Hyder, is for the construction of 32km of dual carriageway. The consortium will design, build, finance and operate the road under the PFI the Government scheme aimed at encouraging private a merger, balance is the vital, firms to invest in public infrastructure projects.

In his first interview since the end of merger talks with AI earlier this month, Sir Neville

told The Independent: "Aggregate broke the negotiations by putting a hand grenade in the middle of the room and saying we are not going to abide by the written agreement'." According to the agreement,

Sir Neville would bave become Simms, the construction giant's non-executive chairman of the chief executive, comes as Tar- enlarged group, with Peter Tom, AI's chief executive, as chief executive. The two would also have cochaired an integration committee to oversee the merger. while membership of the board

> of the new company and the committee were to be split 50-50 between the two groups. Sir Neville claimed AI demanded he relinquished his role as co-chair of the committee and wanted the majority of members on the integration committee and on the board.

"This was just ludicrous. In for a takeover you have to pay a premium," Sir Neville said. He dismissed as "rubbish".

foundered because of a clash of personalities between him and Mr Tom, "It doesn't make sense. I am the chief executive of a group that is bigger than Aggregate and I had already decided to become non-executive chairman," he said.

Sir Neville also rejected as "spurious" AI's argument that his position in the new company would have created a conflict of interest with his proposed role as head of Tarmac's construction division, which was to be spun off from the Tarmac-AI

He said that following the merger's collapse, Tarmac has been in talks with a number of other parties.

The company's share price has been dogged by the presence of the low-margin construction division alongside the building materials unit and Sir Neville has been under pressure from City institutions to break up the group.

In the interview, he did not rule out a split, but said that a merger was still the "preferred

Market for new issues collapses

THE NEW issues market almost halved in value during the year, robbing many small companies of the chance to go public and raise capital, according to accountancy firm KPMG. writes Clifford German.

There were only 68 new issues in the whole of 1998, raising less than £3.9bn between them. This compared with 100 deals raising £6.7bn in 1997 and 218 deals raising £10bn in 1994.

The level of activity continued to decline into the fourth quarter, when there were only 14 deals, raising £147m. "The new issues market vir-

tually closed down at the end of July - after the sharp fall in the stock market - and there is no hint of an upturn on the horizon," said Neil Austin, head of new issues at KPMG corporate finance yesterday. The desperate position of

the new issues market, which also affects smaller quoted companies looking to raise more money through rights issues, is forcing smaller companies to resort to private equity or bank loans.

BP may shut down Ula field

BRITISH PETROLEUM may be forced to shut the Ula oilfield in the Norwegian sector of the North Sea because of low oil A temporary closure of the

field, which produces 30,000 barrels of oil a day, is one of a number of options being considered in an attempt to cut BP Norway said. costs, and a decision will be taken late next month or early in February, a spokesman said. BP is the lead operator in the Ula field with a 57.5 per cent

The announcement yesterday is seen by oil industry sources as an attempt to put pressure on Statoil, the Norwegian state oil company, to cut its charges for transporting oil from Ula through the Statoil pipeline to the Ekofisk distribution platform where oil is

These charges are said to be as high as \$5 a barrel, according to unconfirmed reports in the Norwegian press. "We have had talks with Statoil and the matter is now with the Norwegian oil and energy ministry." a BP spokesman said.

loaded for shipment to re-

BY CLIFFORD GERMAN

If Ula is shut down BP will have to pay the costs of care and maintenance but Statou's revenues will dry up immediately. Some of the 80 workers on the Ekofisk platform may also be affected, a spokesman for BP's other nearby North

Sea oilfield. Gyda, which produces 40,000 barrels a day and has lower operating and transport costs, is not affected. But other oilfield operators

of marginal oilfields worldwide could be faced with similar choices if the downturn in crude oil prices shows no signs of being reversed in the next 12 North Sea oil prices for de-

livery in February edged up 35 cents to \$10.46 a barrel yesterday, but the outlook remains de-

BP was the most actively traded stock on the London market vesterday and prices fell by 8.5p to 908.5p.

In New York shares in Halliburton, the world's largest oil service company, fell by \$2 after a profits warning.

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON

BLUE CHIPS failed to hold their best levels but, in exceedingly thin trading, Footsie managed to close with a 74.3-point advance to 5,941.5.

The supporting indices also made progress. Futures activity was behind some gains and the usual plethora of New Year tips was another relevant factor. Asda, the superstores chain, remained under the influence of takeover rumours with the shares scoring a 4.25p gain to 163.25p as speculators banked on a bid from US retailing chain, Wal-Derek Pain, page 13

NEW YORK

NEW YORK shares drifted nowards, as higher than expected holiday sales in the US compensated for a fall in Internet stocks. In early afternoon trading, the Dow Jones rose 0.3 per cent to 9,256, while the Nasdag fell 0.25 per cent to 2,174.

Amazon.com, the online bookseller, fell 3.5 per cent, and Charles Schwab, the on-line brokerage, dropped 5.5 per cent as investors took profits after Monday's surge in Internet

TOKYO

A SURGE in on-line Christmas shopping in the US, coupled with a late flurry of futures trading, saw Japanese shares post their largest gain in four weeks yesterday, with the benchmark Nikkei index gaining 1 per cent to close at 13,846.

Computer stocks led the way, with Softhank, the software wholesaler which owns a stake in Internet directory Yahoo!, surging 6 per cent, and Fujitsu, Japan's biggest computer producer, adding 2 per cent

FRANKFURT

DESPITE A lack of activity in the run-up to the euro, shares in German companies continued the upward trend of the previous four trading days, with the benchmark DAX index gaining 0.3 per cent to finish at 5,056.

reinsurer, rose nearly 2 per cent, while rival Allianz gained 2.5 per cent, as investors expect European insurance companies to increase competitiveness once the single currency comes into

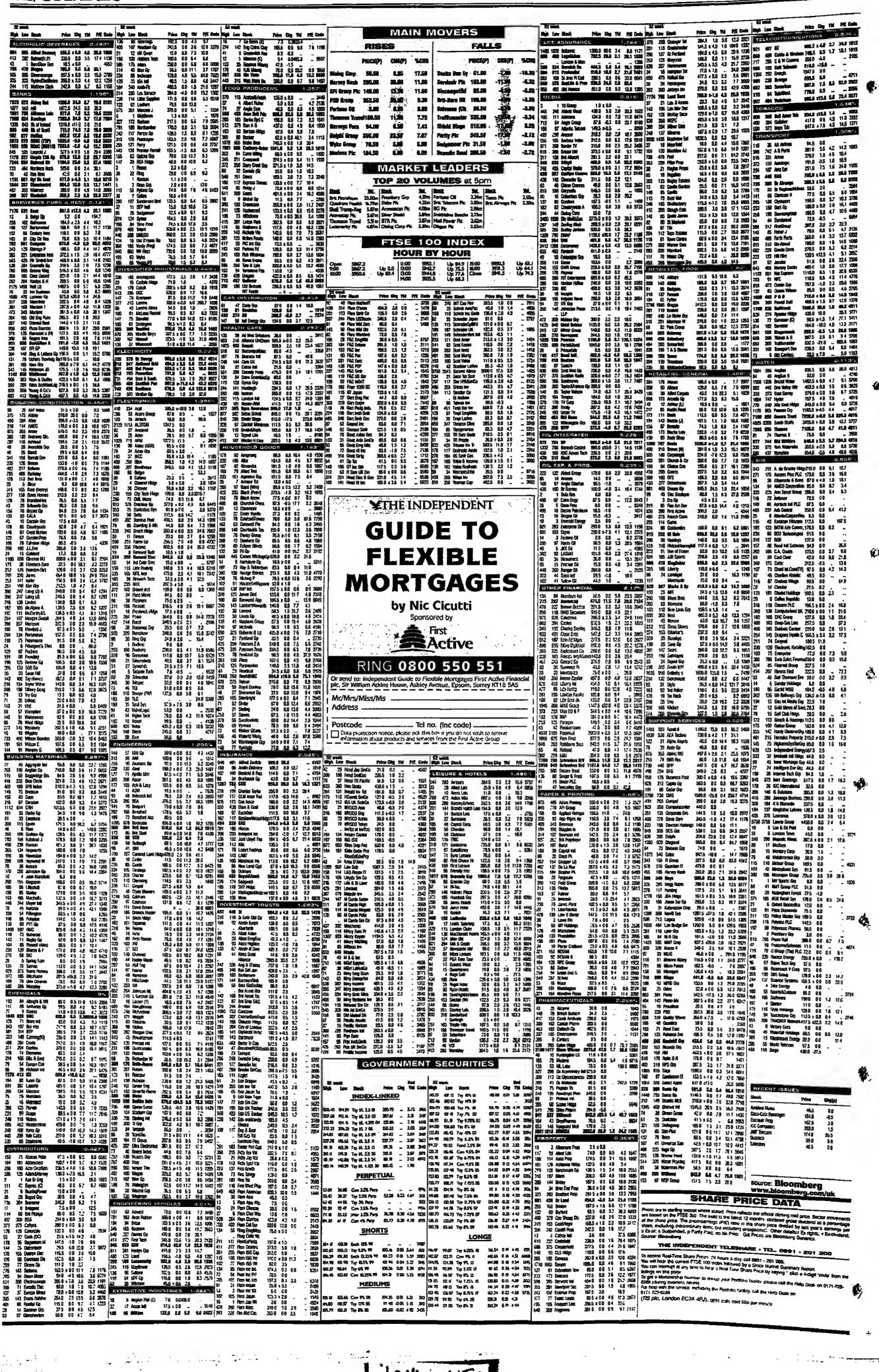
Munich Re, the world's largest

HONG KONG

HONG KONG shares closed slightly higher yesterday, with a lack of any real buying interest mitigated by some futures-related activity. The Hang Seng index closed at 10,225, a 0.5 per cent gain on the day.

"It bas been a lousy year," said one trader. "A lot of funds see no need to go back into the market and take more risks." Lai Sun Development, the

property firm, gained 16 per cent on news that it would sell a stake in its Chinese property arm to repay HK\$20bn of debt.



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ONE OF the most troubling aspects when assessing the outlook for the equity market in 1999 is the sense that the lessons of 1998 are still not clear, even at this stage.

While the decisive global policy response in the final months of the year has clearly restored calm to world markets, it is impossible to say whether the underlying tensions have been resolved. If there is one esson that we should have learnt in 1998 it is modesty, as the limits to our understanding of the global financial system became painfully

Nevertheless, highlighting these uncertainties does not free us from the seasonal task of previewing the year ahead for the equity market.

An appraisal of the broad economic outlook looks like a good place to start. The story here seems straight forward. Inflationary pressures will probably continue to ease worldwide, hut there should be no recession, either in the UK or in the global economy.

While at face value this seems a reassuring economic scenario, the underlying reality may be less comforting. Low real growth is one thing, low inflation another, tut having both at once is unfamiliar territory for the UK economy.

Nominal GDP growth in the UK looks set to be around 3 per cent in 1999, the slowest growth in 50 years. This, of course, is not just a UK latest estimate shows that analysts

PAUL O'CONNOR

Modest valuations and strong liquidity flows should provide good support

theme, but part of a much wider global ptienomenon which should see lower growth across Europe in 1999 and in the US as well.

As companies are discovering, this is a world in which sales growth is hard to generate, requiring cutbacks in costs and investment to preserve profitability. The recent trend in analysts' earnings forecasts illustrates how these pressures are

Analysts began 1998 expecting earnings growth of 10 per cent for the year. But, as the graph displays, it has been downhill ever since. The

now expect earnings to fall by more than 1 per cent in 1998. The final outcome will probably be closer to -5

This process has by no means run its course. Forecasts for earnings growth in 1999 show analysts once again starting the year expecting earnings to expand at a douhle-digit rate. So much for low nominal growth. The out-turn looks likely to be closer to zero than the current 12 per cent consensus fore-

If that seems a recipe for a bad year ahead for the equity market, it is worth noting that the trend in the overall equity market has typically been only weakly correlated with forecast revisions. Furthermore, growth is not the only factor driving equity markets, and it is of some comfort that other key influences are sending more positive

Economic policy is the first of these. While a world of low economic growth is one in which profits will expand more slowly than in the past, it is also a world of greater economic stability. With inflation and output volatility having fallen to historical lows and the economy exhibiting few signs of major financial imbalances, policy can continue to ease in 1999.

Base rates look set to fall from today's 6.25 per cent towards 5 per cent, with most of the cuts taking

HIGH EXPECTATIONS Consensus corporate earnings growth forecasts % 1999

swiftly. Current bond/equity valua-

tions show that equities have al-

ready priced in a considerable

degree of bad news. Indeed, the

stock market is cheaper relative to

bonds than it has been during recent

recessions. While the easing of eco-

en the valuation floor.

place in the first half of the year Fir- of slowing growth, markets move ther rate cuts look likely in the US and across Europe.

For equities, the prospect of further interest rate cuts provides encouragement to look through earnings downgrades and to focus on the prospect of growth recovering from late 1999. This is a global theme, to be reinforced in the UK by favourable fiscal measures. Both the cuts in corporation tax and the abolition of Advance Corporation Tax (ACT) in April will boost corporate profitability.

cyclical story in 1999. While earnings The second area of comfort for the equity market is valuation. Almay grow more slowly in a low inflation era, these earnings are likely to be of higher quality and more though equity analysts may be slow to adjust their forecasts in the face

is strong empirical evidence of this inverse relationship between equity valuations and inflation. If inflation is historically low, then P/E multiples can stay historically high. Our own inflation valuation models would suggest that fair value on the UK market is pretty close to the cur-The third positive theme for the

equity market in 1999 is fiquidity. While liquidity fundamentals look healthy enough at the start of the year, the combination of falling interest rates and changes to both corporate tax and personal tax look set to strengthen these influnces throughout the year, most notably in the first half.

For the second year running, 1999 may well see the corporate sector emerging as the higgest buyer of UK equities. M&A activity is booming, new insurance is scarce and share buybacks should remain widespread, boosted by the abolition of ACT in April.

nomic policy in 1999 should promote a re-rating of equities against bonds, at the very least it should strength-Taking all these flows together, companies look set to be net huyers of UK shares to the tune of some £20bn in 1999, in the process adding more cash to already bulging in-In a valuation context, the prospect of structurally low inflation should reinforce this more positive stitutional coffers.

The retail investor also looks set to be a big huyer in 1999. The

durable than in the past, and there-fore warrant a higher rating. There by private investors to use up al-lowances in March and April while lowances in March and April while it is still possible.

Lower interest rates should reinforce this trend, a theme that may also influence institutional asset allocation in 1999.

While every rate cut improves equity market fundamentals, it also diminishes the appeal of cash as a rival asset. It is notable that the year begins with pension funds holding almost 7 per cent of their assets in cash, a weighting last seen in the early 1990s when interest rates were well into double digits.

In summary, while the prospect of frequent and sizeable earnings downgrades in the early months of the year will weigh heavily on the equity market in 1999, modest valuations and strong liquidity flows should provide good support.

As the year progresses, the ben-eficial impact of the easier policy en-vironment should become more apparent, sustaining the market's advance towards our estimate of around 6,200 on the FTSE 100 by the vear end

While global influences should also become more supportive as the year progresses, we believe they remain capable of producing meaningful bouts of turbulence along the way. Expect surprises.

prospect of PEPs disappearing is Paul O'Connor is an equity strate-likely to encourage one final fling gist at Credit Suisse First Boston

New Year tips brighten a lacklustre day for Footsie

T LOOKED at one time as if Footsie would reclaim the 6.000 points level, last visited in July.

But on a day renown for traditionally thin trading, blue chios were unable to hang on to their hest levels and the index closed with a 74.3 gain to 5.941.5.

New Year tips, real and rumoured, provided some interest hut as invariably happens at this time of the year offices existed with a skeleton staff. 🚰 my big hitters were away and "... ise left in charge were more likely to make the type of pre- under scrutiny as it, and others. caulionary move which often amplifies share movements.

The advent of the euro, prompting some hig investors a share peak. They closed 8.5p to sit on the sidelines, also restricted trading.

The Stock Exchange attempted to pierce the malalse deavours on four possible liv reporting it had enjoyed another record year with domes. British Aerospace which has, tic volume up 2.2 per cent.

Supporting shares moved ahead. The mid cap index rose 30.7 to 4.843.5 and the small cap 9.3 to 2,061.7. Not for the first time General Electric Co was

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MARKET REPORT



PAIN

continued to play the euro defence game. The shares were at one time 39p higher at a 580p up at 549.5p.

GEC is now said to be concentrating its corporate enmerger partners, including on and off, been in the group's

sights for years. In fact six years ago, when BAe limped along at around 30p, GEC took a close interest in the then ailing group hut de-

cided not to hid, Others said to SHARE SPOTLIGHT be in talks with GEC are Lockheed Martin and Northrop Grumman, the US groups, and Thomson-CSF of France, part owned by the French government which is said to he keen

for talks to open. Peter Craine, GEC's director of government relations, said: "It is too early to say who the front runner is."

BAe. firm at 518p, was on the verge of clinching a deal with DaimlerChrysler of Germany before GEC barged into the

Insurance shares had to contend with suggestions the holiday storms will cost the industry more than £100m; GRE was off 6p at 344p.

British Petroleum was down 8p at 908.5p. Just one hurdle remains to be cleared before its huge merger with Amoco can go ahead - clearance from the US Federal Trade Commission,

There are hopes the Federal Trade Commission will stir today allowing the deal to be completed tomorrow. If tomor-

GEC

hoped the merger will go through next week. The new behemoth's capitalisation will be around £85hp, the higgest on the stock market.

OJ FMAMI JASONO

Asda, up 4.25p to 163.25p, again responded to Wal-Mart hid rumours and Enterprise Oil regarded as another takeover candidate, improved 5.5p to

As if to underline the low level of trading, the two shares leading the Footsie leader board were its most illiquid constituents.

with volume put at 120,000 shares and the investment house's non voting shares gained 51.5p to 996.5p with just 7,597 shares on the screen. Takeover activity in the holiday industry, plus hopes of a hookings stampede, lifted Thomson Travel 11.5p to

Schroders rose 64p to 1.167p

below the spring-time flotation price and the 199p touched soon afterwards. prising Test victory against ker Killik Australia, cricket coverage became a live issue with Galaxy Media and Television Corpo-

160.5p. The shares are still

world cup. Galaxy, up 15p to 76.5p, said it may bid for the next two World Cup competitions and TC. which has won the contract to cover domestic Test matches for Channel 4, will "almost certainly" attempt to cover the World Cup. TC shares gained

Quadrant Healthcare slipped 2.5p to 77.5p after 16.7 million shares issued when a company called Andaris was acquired were sold at 77.5p. Nomura appears to have picked up the stock, lifting its stake to 28.17 per ceot.

Zetters, thinking of split-ting Itself into separate bingo and football pool companies, lost 9p to 118.5p. United Carriers, where entrepreneur Luke Johnson has picked up 7.1 per cent, advanced 7p to 33.5p. Takeover hopes again in-

spired European Motor, up 80 justments by foreign investors recession. This is making many a near at 70p, and motor dealer DC choosing not to roll over mapoliticians unwilling to agree to Monday. Cook reversed 1.5p to 21.5p as row's deadline is missed it is a Henderson fund trimmed its stake to 7 per ceot. Trafficmaster, the vehicle security group, had an uncer-

tain session, ending 21p lower A report that its new antitheft device was unsafe found

ARTISAN, the honse building and pub/restaurant refurbishment business that demerged from what is now Environmental Property Services earlier this month, is due to start work in January on

contracts worth £3.8m. They inclode a new Belgo restaurant at London's Ladbroke Grove and a Pizza Express at Amersham.

Artisan shares have fallen from around 6p to 4p since the demerger while EPS is 8.75p.

On the day of England's sur- little sympathy with stockbro-

"We believe the concerns raised were over played and the dip in the price is an opporturation hoping to catch the next nity to buy," it said.

MSB International, the IT recruitment group, made further headway, up 47.5p to 357.5p. An upbeat trading statement earlier this month has lifted the shares from a 140p low.

SEAQ VOLUME: 286.5 million SEAQ TRADES: 35,620 GILT INDEX: N/A

\$1bn a day outflow hits Brazilian share prices

SHARE PRICES in Brazil dived as capital flows out of the country hit the \$1bn mark for the sec-

ond day running yesterday. The amount of money that has left the country in December has reached almost \$6bn, compared with just under \$2bn m November

The capital flight has topped the amount of emergency finance Brazil has so far received under a \$41.6bn rescue package led by the International Monetary Fund, announced at the be-

ginning of December. The faster pace of capital outflows reflects both year-end adBY DIANE COYLE **Economics Editor**

turing debt, and nervousness about whether the country will satisfy the terms of the IMF-led loans. These require a huge cut in the government's budget deficit, but earlier this month the Brazilian Congress rejected proposals for narrowing the gap between spending and revenues.

New proposals are due to be debated in January. However, with interest rates at 30 per cent to protect the currency's peg against the US dol-lar, Brazil faces a deep

the spending cuts required by the IMF programme.

But the Fund's credibility is at stake as it was criticised for its handling of the Asian crisis. A renewed crisis in Brazil would

prove deeply embarrassing.
The US Treasury is also determined to make a success of the Brazilian rescue. If Brazil hits trouble, the rest of Latin America would pick up the contagion, and US banks are particularly exposed to the region." said Stephen Lewis, chiefecon-

omist at Monument Derivatives. The Sao Paolo Bovesna index fell 2.7 per cent vesterday, after a near 4 per cent decline on

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE RATE CHANGE The variable rate of mortgage interest will decrease by 0.50% from 1st January 1978.

STROUD SWINDON BUILDING SOCIETY

STROUD ②SWINDON MORTGAGE COMPANY LIMITED

NOTICE OF INTEREST RATES

ON INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS

FREDUCT	MALANCE	CLD SHOSS BATE	HEW GROSS PATE	
120 DAY ACCOUNT	2100,000 and over	7.16	6.60	5.28
(Annual Interest Rates)	£50,000 to £99,999	6.80	6.30	5.04
	£25,000 to £49,999	6.55	6.00	4.60
	£10,000 to £24,999	6.00	5.50	4.40
	£5,000 to £9,999	5.75	5.25	4.20
	£2,000 to £4,999	5.00	4.50	3.60
60 DAY ACCOUNT	£50,000 and over	5.90	5.40	4.32
(Armual Interest Rates)	£25,000 to £49,999	5.50	5.00	4.00
	£10,000 to £24,999	5.25	4.75	3.80
	25,000 to 29,999	4.50	4.00	3.20
	£2,000 to £4,999	4.25	3.75	3.00
Tessa	with Annual Interest	7.00	6.40	5.12
BRANCH INSTANT	with Annual Interest	5.26	4.76	3.81
CLASSIC GOLD	250,000 and over	4.30	3.80	3.04
(Annual Interest Rates)	£25,000 to £49,999	4.00	3,50	2.80
	£111,000 to £24,999	3.60	3.10	2.48
	£5,000 to £9,999	3.10	2.60	2.08
	Σ500 to £4,999	2.55	2.05	1.64
	£5 to £499	2.00	2.00	1.80
MONEY BOX ACCOUNT	£500 and over	6.50	6.00	4.80
(Annual Interest Flates)	£5 to £499	6.25	5.75	4.60
TREASURER'S TRUST ACCOUNT	£50,1100 and over	3.65	3.15	2.52
(Annual Interest Rates)	£25,000 to £49,999	3.20	2.70	2.16
	£10,000 to £24,999	2.70	2.50	2.00
	£5,000 to £9,999	2.45	2.25	1.80
	£500 to £4,999	2.20	2,10	1.68
	£5 to £499	2.00	2,00	1.60
INSTANT ACCOUNT	250,000 and over	6.66	6,35	5.08
(Annual Interest Rates)	£25,000 to £49,999	e.35	5.80	4.64
	£111,000 to £24,999	6.06	5.50	4.40
	£5,000 to £9,999	5.85	5,30	4.24
	£2,000 to £4,999	5.56	5.00	4.00
THIRTY ACCOUNT	£50,000 and over	7.00	6.50	5.20
(Annual Interest Rates)	£25,000 to £49,999	7.00	6.50	5.20
	£10,000 to £24,999			
	ZIU,UUU IU LEN,SSS	7.00	6.45	5.16

6.25 t. The contractual rates are the gross rates shown above. Nex rates of interest are for illustrative purposes only and allow for the The contravings area are the great rates were more, the same or uncreasure as monerance purposes out, and also that it is deduction from the gross rate of income tax at the appropriate rate (or mental 20%) which may be reclaimed by not not prepare. All interest rates referred to in the socioe and in these notes are variable except where stated. The frequency of indirect

ents as set out in the terms and conditions of each account issue.

For movably income accounts, the gross monthly applied non has been adjusted to ensure that the companioned tumost rate continues to equal the gross rate paid on annual interest accounts. All other closed and former losse variable rates have degreesed. Full details of interest rates on all accounts are available at all branches of the Supery. HEAD OFFICE ROWCROFT STROUD GLOUCESTERSHIRE GL5 3BG TELEPHONE 01453 767011 Member of the Building Societies Association and subscriber to the Code of Mortgage Landing Peachor

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Notice to customers of Halifax International (Jersey) Limited.

Halifax International (Jersey) Limited announces revised interest rates effective from 1st January 1999

rates effective in	rom 15t January	1999.						
BALANCE	ANNUAL INTEREST GROSS PA. (CURRENT)	ANNUAL INTEREST GROSS P.A. (FROM 01/01/99)	MONTHLY INTEREST GROS5 P.A. (FROM 01/01/99)					
HA	LIFAX PREMIUN	INTERNATION	VAL					
£100,000+	7.15%	6.75%	6.55%					
£50,000+	7.10%	6.70%	6.50%					
£25,000+	6.90%	6.90% 6.50%						
HA	HALIFAX DEPOSIT INTERNATIONAL							
£100,000+	6.80%	6.40%	6.22%					
£50,000+	6.60%	6.20%	6.03%					
£25,000+	6.55%	6.15%	5.98%					
£10,000+	6.10%	5.70%	5.56%					
£5.000+	5.30%	5.15%	5.03%					

If you have less than £25,000 in your Halifax Premium International account it will earn interest at the equivalent Halifax Deposif International rate. If you have less than £5,000 in your Halifax Premium International account or Halifax Deposit International account we will only pay you interest of 2.85% gross p.a. If you have less than £500 in your Halifax Premium International account or Halifax Deposit International account we will only pay you interest of 1.00% gross p.a. "Gross" means we will not take any tax off the interest we pay.

Further details can be obtained by calling Halifax International (Jersey) Limited on 01534 759840 (from within the UK) or + 44 1534 759840 (from outside the UK).



30th December 1998

From 1 January 1999, the Society's variable rates of interest for existing homowers will be reduced by 0.50% pa gross. For borrowers with fixed rate mortgages, this change will affect the rate charged after the fixed rate period.

15p to 235p.

Borrowers on the budget repayment scheme are not required to take are writer and individual notices will be taked to homowers outwith the scheme.

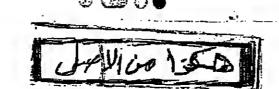
DUNFERMLINE

New Borrower's Interest Rate Dunfermline Building Society's variable rate for new

Rates for other types of lending are available on

Notice to Existing Borrowers

mortgages for owner-occupiers is now 7.45%.



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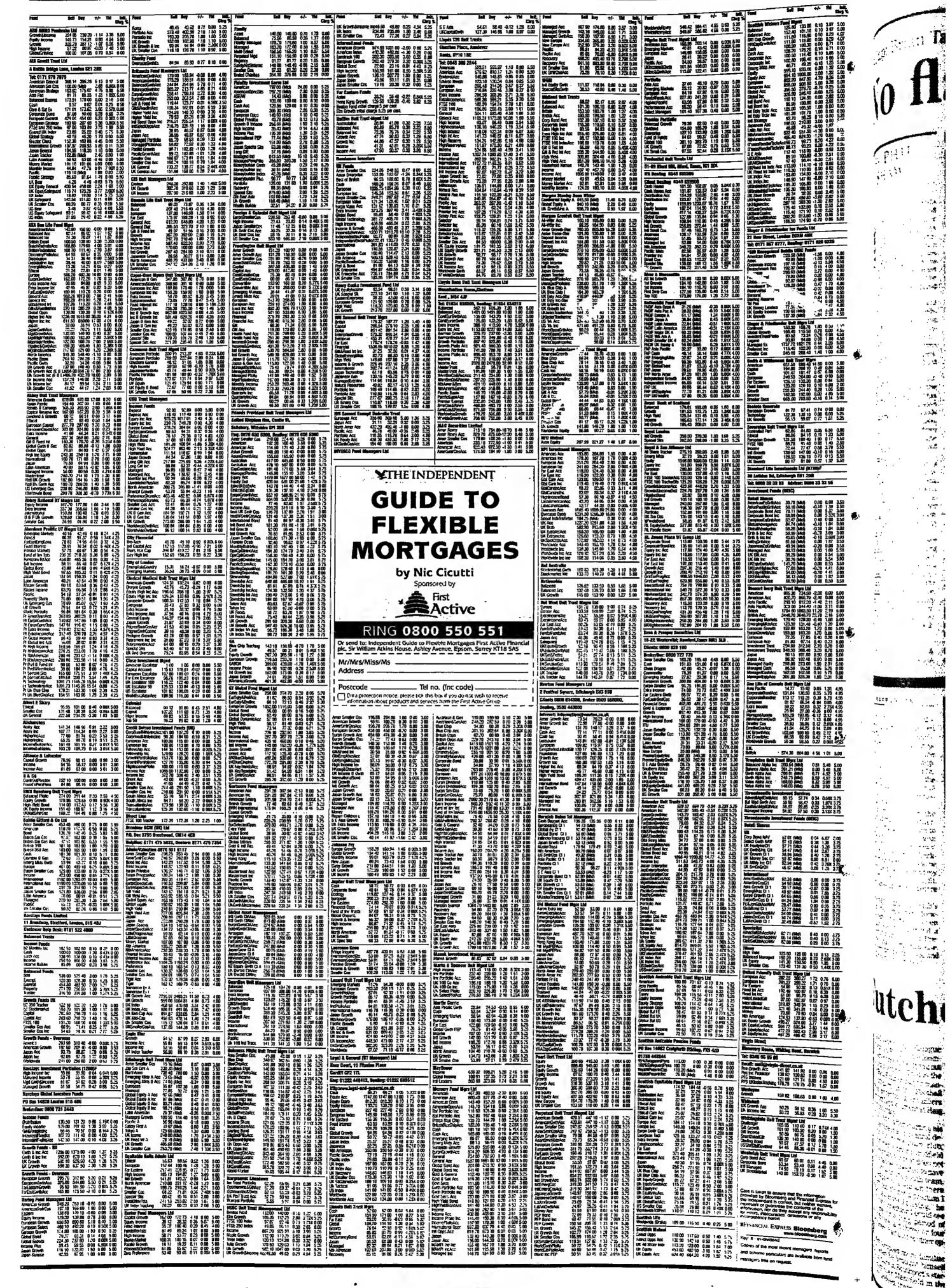
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SPORT

FA Cup: Brian Talbot will tackle Leeds with a squad of full-time players roared on by a capacity crowd at Nene Park

No flaws in Rushden's diamonds

BY PHIL **SHAW**



IN 1992, when Leeds United were kicking off the inaugural Premier League campaign as champions, 315 spectators gathered in the Northamptonshire town of Irthlingborough to

watch Rushden & Diamonds start life by drawing with Bilston in the Beazer Homes League (Midland On Saturday, a full house of 6,472

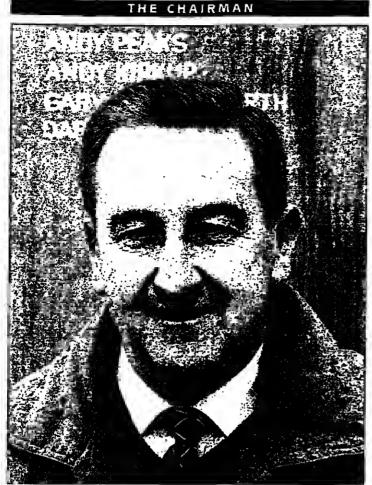
more than the population of Irthlingborough - will witness the latest chapter in the rise and rise of Rushden & Diamonds. Nene Park, redeveloped as a stylish stadium within a sports and entertainment complex, plays host to Leeds in the third round of the FA Cup.

The visionary behind the wouldhe giant-killers is the owner of the Doc Martens footwear empire, Max Griggs. When he merged Rushden Town and Irthlingborough Diamonds and talked of League status by 2000, people questioned his sanity. They now lie third in the Conference, nine points behind nearby Kettering but with five games in hand.

Leeds will no more encounter a hunch of plumbers, teachers and insurance salesmen than a sloping mudheap or a damp dressing-room. Under the managership of Brian Talbot, the former England midfielder who holds the title of head coach, Rushden & Diamonds have nearly 30 full-time players.

With support booming - 4,400 watched Monday's win over Woking - and the restaurants, bars, conference facilities, gymnasium, sauna and banqueting suites thriving, Griggs is confident the club will become self-financing. In the meantime, perhaps the song played after every home game, "Diamonds are Forever", should be followed by another rom the Shirley Bassey songbook. "Big Spender".

Photographs ou David Ashdown & Northampton Evening Telegraph and we could actually do it this sea- great day'.



I WAS on the Northampton board

doing, is it? We may have spent £20m

creating all this but in a way we've

just swapped money for assets.

We've still got the land a 70-acre site,

so people who think we've just

poured money into a non-League

team are missing the point. You cre-

ate things around the club to offset

League by the end of the century

I once said I wanted to be in the

fun bit in the middle.

when they played at the county cricket ground, I didn't see the point son. I think Wimbledon are great of putting a few million into a team the way they went through the dirather than a club. The set-up here visions was a great role model for is much more than a football club. us. It's not just a pipe-dream to be-The Diamond Centre is a focal point lieve that we could get to the Prefor the community. The football's the miership; we've got a catchment area of 200,000 people within 10 min-It's got to be fun or it isn't worth

utes' drive. We never considered switching this tie to Leeds. What would have been the point of huilding this lovely stadium if we had? I'm looking forward to seeing a full house of 6,000-plus for the first time. We've kept ticket prices at Conference levels so no one can say they were and I played together at Highbury fleeced. The occasion is everything: whatever the result, I want

MY PRIORITY is to win promotion from the Conference, but this game with Leeds is a lovely distraction. When the chairman asked me to join the chib last year be said: 'Come and have some fun'. Well it doesn't get much more enjoyable or exciting than this.

If we had a bad playing surface and run-down facilities we might have had a chance. But it won't be like Stevenage and Newcastle. We'll treat Leeds with the respect they deserve, which is immense. You ask David O'Leary which player he'd take off me and there wouldn't be one; I'd take every one of his. David and shared a room at the Grosvenor before the 1979 FA Cup final. He was

Leeds will find that this is no or- League football.



BRIAN TALBOT

dinary non-League set-up, to put it mildly, but the perception of us as a wealthy club puts pressure on my players. The supporters expect a lot of them because of the money that's been spent and the facilities here. They think we've got a divine right to win things, but no one has.

All I know is that there's only one League place available and we're as good as any team in the Conference. It's a shame some of the other clubs are a little jealous. We're bospitable to them but we don't always get the same when we go away. Everyone tries that hit harder against us - they all want to beat the

WHEN I was 16 I started watching Rushden Town youth and reserves because a mate played for them, and I began following them. Our main ambition was survival. We were getting gates of 50 to 100, and when we finished 14th in the Beazer Homes Premier Division we got demoted because the ground was in such dis-

Like a lot of fans of the old Rushden club I was against the merger. We were only one level below the Conference and we didn't want to travel to Irthlinghorough. But I came to the first match and decided to keep records. Now I'm the unofficial statistician.

No one had any idea it was going to take off like this. We're attracting new supporters yet there's no resentment about "glory-hunters". ers we need to keep going forward.

MARK STRINGER

People talk about "family" clubs this really is one. But I go to every away match and there's a definite animosity, blokes shouting: "You think you can buy this league".

I feel it's inevitable that we'll get into the League. I remember seeing Wimbledon's name on the Southern League championship shield, which made me think. It's like a rollercoaster ride. We don't know where it'll lead, though I can honestly see us reaching the Premiership.

I work locally as a carpenter and everyone's talking about the Leeds game. For me. making it a great day is more important than the result, as long as we don't lose heavily. The publicity will help us attract the pla

RAY WARBURTON

UNTIL OCTOBER I was the Northampton captain and had led in two Wembley play-off finals. i ...lad big reservations about dropping into the Conference, but in the end I viewed it as a sideways step. We'll certainly go up to the Third Division, if not this season then the next. I was in League football for 15 years and this is the most professional set-up I've known.

I signed in time to play in the fourth qualifying round at Leatherhead and was fortunate enough to get a last-minute equaliser. We won the replay 4-0, then put out Shrewshury and Doncaster. I'm a Yorkshireman, from Rotherham, so to be h-awr against Leeds was beyond my est dreams. I only hope I'm fit: I we exced my knee ligaments before Caristmas.

This is the biggest game the club's had, if not the most important. Newcastle came here for a friendly when Kevin Keegan was manager but a competitive match against a top Premiership side - that's something else. If we hit top form and get the luck, and they don't fancy it, who knows?



use the pitch or facilities as an ex- ton going to Elland Road or Hillscuse. That's a problem for us in the borough. And when we play away we Conference: every visiting team get called "moneybags". We are

Leeds certainly won't be able to raise their game. It's like Northamp-

well paid - though nowhere near the two grand a week some papers say we're on - and that riles some TONY JONES

I WAS among a group of lads who formed an Under-18 team in 1946. We were inspired by Moscow Dynamo, who had just completed their famous British tour, so we called ourselves Irthlingborough Dynamos. We soon decided it was too copycat and amended it to Diamonds. I became secretary at 18 and it was my baby.

We graduated to semi-pro level in the United Counties League, and in '69 we opened our own ground on this site. In the early 90s, with me getting older, crowds lower and money tighter, I decided I wanted out, provided the Diamonds lived on. I offered the club to two ex-players who were businessmen. They said no, but Max agreed to take it on as long as I stayed on board as vicechairman.

For two weeks he was chairman of Irthlingborough Diamonds. Then he said: What about merging with Rushden? They're in a mess'. I watched the stand and clubhouse we'd built get bulldozed away in two hours, but there are no regrets. Besides, the memories live on. One of the photos hanging in the various



suites shows Brian Talbot awarding the prizes at our dinner 20 years ago, soon after he'd joined Ar-

I regard this tie as a great opplayers who don't want the stigma enormous excitement.

of going non-League. I watched Leeds at Arsenal and for half an hour their youngsters ran them ragged. I've never seen football played so fast. So there's a little hit of trepiportunity to project ourselves to dation mixed in with a feeling of

Futcher relaxed about his future direction

YOU ARE a 42-year-old non-League manager with an FA Cup tie looming. What better time to be trying out a new playing position? That is the situation of Paul Futcher, player-manager of Southport, of the Football Conference, potential giant-killers when they host Leyton Orient at Haig

Avenue on Saturday. A mere 26 years after starting his long League career as a central defender with his home-town club, Chester, Futcher is trying midfield for size. Presumably, if that does not work out, he can be expected to have a run up front with the youth team.

for Oldham, but it's not a position I ever really saw myself playing," he says. "It's not something I could see games I haven't had a lot of other op- League travels.

titus."

Tutcher occupied more familiar last round; indeed, there can hard- take.

ly be a more experienced defender still playing at a good level in Britain. ways give you a chance. When I was

As a young up-and-comer at Luton, he looked a certainty for full England caps, rather than the Under-21 and Football League honours for which he ultimately had to settle. With his twin, Ron, very much as

the makeweight, he was a hig-"I played part of a season there 20 years and about as many man- a caretaker basis but was not wantagers ago. The returning Malcolm Allison never fancied him as much and he left after two seasons, taking myself doing for a long period of in Oldham, Derby, Barnsley, Halifax time, but for the last three or four and Grimsby on the rest of his

"As a young player, I really used to play it off the cuff. I used to stroke t .ritory when he brought himself it about and, in those days, you could an as a substitute in Southport's star- always play it back to the goaltling victory over Mansfield in the k epec but I still made the odd mis-

at Luton as a 17-year-old, though, I that lost its League status must be was a bit like that lad at Villa, Gareth Barry."

Southport's manager has just taken on a new role in midfield.

Can he conjure the downfall of Leyton Orient? By Dave Hadfield

Notable prodigy as he was, Futcher reckons he played some of his best - and certainly most mature football at Grimsby when he was almoney signing when Tony Book ready deep into his mid-30s. He ago?" was in charge at Manchester City, even had a spell in charge there on ed when a permanent appointment

"I'd played League football until 39 and I just went to Droylesden to keep fit. But from there I got a phone call to be player-manager at Gresley and had a fair bit of success there for 18 months."

He is now midway through his second season with Southport, baving guided them to the final of the

FA Trophy in his first. Adventures in

"I was a good player, but I'd al- Cup competitions are all very well, of course, but the priority for a club the quest to reclaim it.

"Halifax have proved that it can be done and Macclesfield are in the Second Division, competing with the likes of Manchester City. Who would have thought that three years

Southport are in mid-table in the Conference, having played less games than most of the clubs above them, but Futcher does not

Cup run that hasn't always been there in our league matches. We've been creating chances but not converting them, whereas at Mansfield we stuck a couple of good

goals away." Drawing Southport cannot be



believe that the FA Cup is a dis- Paul Futcher: Has not even watched the opposition Peter Jay

"But we've had a bit of luck in our counted as good luck for Orient. position and there is a good deal of beaten by Conference opposition in League experience - starting with the goalkeeper, Billy Stewart - in the the Cup for the past two seasons and rather unconvincing winners over Southport side to help them take it all in their stride at Haig Avenue this another Conference side, Kingston-Saturday. ian, in the second round.

Futcher's personal best in the Futcher is so relaxed about it all competition amounts to a couple of that he has not even watched the op-

tastes of the quarter-finals. He was not planning to rush into a decision on what role he will play in this tie. hut it is hard to imagine him resisting the temptation. He does, after all, live in the Yorkshire town of Holmfirth, 70 miles from Southport, about 75 from the sea and famous as the setting for Last of the Summer Wine.

It could be the last swallow for Futcher.

"I'm not going to go on flogging a dead horse, although I'm still fit." he says.

It will not, however the result goes, be the end of the Futcher family involvement in the FA Cup. His sister's son is Liverpool's Danny Murphy; another nephew. Stephen Futcher, is at Wrexham, while Paul's own son, Ben, is a second year YTS trainee at Oldham.

As for Ron, he lives around the corner in Holmfirth and is a youth development officer at Bradford City. By Futcher standards, he's a bit of a half-hearted football man, though. He retired before be was 40.

Brilliant catch becomes catalyst

TEST MATCHES don't come much better than this. From the very first ball on Sunday this elongated three-day match was a thriller. In the last act, England left Australia a target of 175 which did not, at the time, seem enough, and they appeared to be cruising to victory having passed a hundred for the loss of only two wickets when suddenly Mark Ramprakash produced a catch which cannot often have been equalled in the history of the game.

It broke the back of the Australians and showed that even this side of Mark Taylor's has its mortal condition. The other side of the same coin was that it unleashed a flood of selfconfidence within the England side which in turn led to self-belief and a mental hardness one had given up all hope of ever seeing from this lot.

Confidence is a strange willo'-the-wisp. Here one-moment, gone the next, often for no obvious or apparent reason, but Ramprakash's catch was inspirational. Alan Mullally bowled a short one to Justin Langer, who swivelled and hooked out of the middle of the bat with murderous power but without quite rolling his wrists

CLOSE FINISHES IN ASHES TESTS

The Oval 1992; England beat Australia by one wicket.
Melbourne 1907-08: England beat Australia by one wicket. The Owal 1890: England beat Australia

by two wickets.

Sydney 1907-08: Australia beat England
by two wickets.

Old Trafford 1902: Australia beat y three runs. ne 1982-83: England beat Australia by three runs.
Sydney 1884-85: Australia beat England
by six runs.
The Owal 1882: Australia beat England

1998-99: England beat

at the moment of impact. At square leg by the umpire, Ramprakash's first move was to the left and then, when his radar had picked up the signal that it was going the other way, he jack-knifed with incredible speed and somehow launched himself to his right. With his body almost off the ground, his right arm outstretched seeking the guided missile, Ramprakash reached into thin air. The ball struck at the base of his fingers and instinctively those

fingers closed and he held on. He tumped up as bewildered as anyone and then, with a seem to happen, it really was look which was somewhere on the borderline between hate and ecstacy, he threw the ball aloft and was submerged by his team-mates. After looking at the replays several times and from all the angles, it became a catch to be tucked away in the

"Freak of Nature" file. Its immediate effect was to bring the side together as if some invisible puppet master had just picked up and tightened the strings of all 11 players.

Even though no wickets fell for a few minutes and all Aus-



HENRY **BLOFELD**

IN MELBOURNE

tralia will have been certain that, with the Waugh twins together a happy ending was assured, Alan Mulially bowled his best spell of the series and was desperately unlucky as hatsmen played and missed while Dean Headley, who has not achieved much in Australia, found a rhythm and a control which is too often missing.

Even the Waughs could only nudge and push and run quick singles although they are mighty good at all these things, and the flow of fours and threes. which were frequent on this outfield, dried up. Earlier, and most significantly it had seemed at the time, Graeme Hick had missed an awkward catch low to his right at third slip off Mulially when Langer had made a single. Now, Mark Waugh played back to Headley and Bick went far and low to his left at second slip and came up with a beauty.

From the moment the ball left the bat, Hick moved with the confidence and the certainty he had lacked when Langer snicked, and Hick has never caught that well on his left. He had found some confidence. and later when Ian Healy edged Headley he made the awkward catch to his right look simple. Warren Hegg never put a foot wrong behind the stumps and held everything that came his way, and the fielding generally was often hrilliant.

As far as one could see, it all came together at the same time for everyone, for the first time in the series. Of course, it was a wonderful afternoon and evening for England's cricket, but it makes one wonder why we have had to wait this long. The Australians were far from overconfident and in the slightly weird and strange way that thes. things sometimes that catch of Ramprakash's which made the difference.

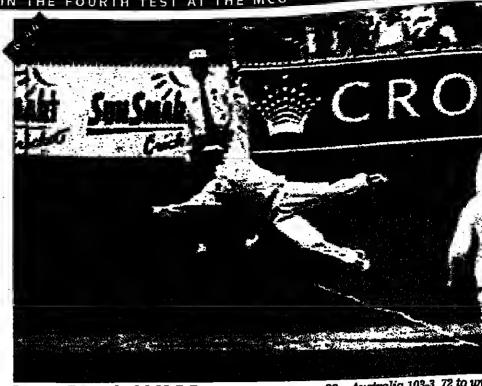
This was roughly the same side which had dropped catches and bowled so badly at Brisbane, batted so poorly on that first day in Perth and which appeared to have given up the ghost in Adelaide. They will go to Sydney for Saturday's last Test in great spirits. It would be typical of this lot if they reverted at once to their Adelaide form and played as if Melbourne has never happened. But then they may not. We shall see.



Alan Mullally puts sting in the England tail

THE FIRST real indication that yesterday's play might provide something out of the ordinary came with England's last-wicket stand. Alan Mullally and Angus Fraser had scored just five runs between them in the series before yesterday's second imnings, but they proceeded to add what proved to be a vital 23 runs.

Even so, there was no indication of the drama to come as the home side set off towards their target of 175. As viewers and listeners were tuning in at breakfast time back in England, Australia were making steady progress. At 130 for the loss of just three wickets they were within 45 runs of their third victory in the series. One spectacular piece of fielding, however was about to change the course of the match...



Langer c Ramprakash b Mullally...

30 Australia 103-3, 72 to win







Lehmann c Hegg b Headley. . 4 Healy c Hick, b Headley. Australia 140-6, 35 to win



Fleming lbw b Headley. Australia 140-6, 35 to win



Australia 161-8, 14 to win



... 9 MacGill b Gough Australia 162-9, 13 to win



McGrath, lbw b Gough.....

....0 Australia 162 all out, England win by 12 runs Photographs: Allsport/Empics/BSkyB

W Indies feel fury of South African backlash

SUPERIOR IN every depart- By TONY COZIER ment of the game, as much off as on the field, South Africa completed their third successive victory over the West Indies by nine wickets midway through the fourth day of the third Test yesterday, securing the series with two matches remaining.

The difference between the teams in depth and particularly in attitude is such that the West Indies are in danger of falling victim of the clean sweep that was their speciality at the height of their powers in the Eighties under the captaincy of Clive Lloyd, now their bemused

The South African coach,

in Durban

West Indies 198 & 259 South Africa 213 & 147-1 S Africa win by nine wickets

Bob Woolmer, said the West Indies had "suffered the backlash" from their 2-1 series loss in England last summer "I believe we played well enough to have won there but we learned a lesson and have come back much stronger," he added. The captain, Hansie Cronje,

praised his team as "a tremen-

dous outfit", said there would be "no compromises" over the remaining Tests.

West Indian woes were com- be sorely missed by a team despounded by the sombre sight of their oldest and most faithful campaigner, Courtney Walsh, taken to the dressing-room on a stretcher, writhing in pain. He tore his right hamstring muscle in an outfield chase as South Africa comfortably gathered the 146 runs they needed for the solitary loss of the opener Herschelle Gibbs, whose left-handed partner, Gary Kirsten, drove the winning boundary through extra cover to be unbeaten on

The injury is likely to put the 36-year-old Walsh out of the fourth Test, starting in Cape Town on Saturday. If so, he will

perately in need of inspiration. There is also doubt about Curtly Ambrose, who failed to take a wicket in the match and who has been carrying a dodgy knee for some time.

Ahead by an insignificant 132 with only Ambrose and Walsh as remaining company for the dogged new wicketkeeper Ridley Jacobs, the West Indies could not even find inspiration from England's fightback in Melbourne, the progress of which was greeted with delighted cheers from a crowd of just over 9,000.

Ambrose heaved a catch to deep mid-on off his fifth ball, his first catch of the series.

providing Shaun Pollock with his fifth wicket of the innings, Donald that would have tested the best No 3 - far less the worst No 11 - in Test cricket

The West Indies, mainly through Ambrose and Walsh. have retrieved such hopeless situations in the past but the fight has gone out of this team. Their plight was typified in the over before lunch when

Gibbs' top-edged stroke off leg-spinner Rawl Lewis lobbed gently towards midwicket where Jacobs, one of their few successes so far, ran from behind the stumps and dropped

Fourth day, South Africa won toss
WEST INDIES - First linnings 198 (B C
Lara 51; J H Kallis 3-18, W J Cronje 3-19),
SOUTH AFRICA - First below 3-12 J
N MODES 87; F A Rose 7-84),
WEST INDIES - Second linnings

H Gibbs low b Hooper J H Kallis not out Extras (lb-1 nb-3) ...

Fall: 1-97.

Sowifing: Rose 9-0-31-0; Ambrose 4-0-16-0 (3rb); Weish 4-1-6-0; Hooper 19-4-50-1 Lewis 12,4-0-43-0.

Man of the match; J N Rhodes.

Umpires: D L Orchard and R B Tiffin (Zim).

Early losses hamper Kiwis' victory chase

NEW ZEALAND and India head- BY CRAIG MASTERS ed for a tight finish in the second Test after the fourth day yesterday. At the close, New Zealand were 73 for 4 and needed 140 runs to win with a day left. But their chances are handicapped as Nathan Astle has a fracture in his left hand and will hat only in an emer-

With Sachin Tendulkar in full flight with a century, India at lunch seemed sure to set New Zealand a hard target. But the second new ball triggered a collapse. Tendulkar was caught for 113 and Azharuddin departed with 48. India lost their last six wickets for only 59 runs to be all out for 356. That set New Zealand to make 213 to

New Zealand could put together only one partnership of any substance - 41 runs for the second wicket between Matthew Horne and Stephen

India 208 & 356 New Zealand 352 & 73 for 4

Fourth day, India uson toss INDIA – First Innings 208 (M Acheroddin 103 not out: 5 Doull 7 for 65) MENN ZEALAND – Write Innings 352 (D Mash 89 not out. 0 Vettori 57. N Aside 56: A Kurn-tha A. fer 87)

ble 4 for E3)

BRDIA - Second leakages
(Overnight: 179-3)

5 C Ganguly c Belt b Wigernam

5 R Tendulkar c Pterning b Nash

M Aznaruddin c Parore b Nash

IN R Mongia c Fterning b Nosh

A Kumble c Nash b Vettor

J Sinah not out

V Prasad c and b Astle

H Singh c Home b McMillun

Extrast (rb5, Rb1, b3, w1)

Total

Fall (comble A 200

Wiseman not out tras [b4, ib1, nb1]

Oouti. Bowling: Srinath 8-1-27-1 (nb1); Prasad 6-1-20-0; Kumble 11-5-19-2; Singh 2-1-1-0; dkar 1:0-1:0. miss E.A. Nicholls (Wil) and E.A. Watkin (MZ).

LINGFIELD **HYPERION**

12.40 Catchment 1.10 Prince Prospect 1.40 Miss Take 2.10 Social Round 2,40 Prospector's Cove 3.10 Ciei De Reve 3.40 Topton

GOING: Standard. STALLS: 1m - outside; remainder - inside. DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low numbers usually best up to 71. Left-hand course, Equitrack surface.

■ Course is SE of town on B2028. Lingfield station (served by London, Victoria) adjoins course. ADMISSION: Club £13, Family Enclosure £10, CAR PARK: Club £3; rest free. II LEADING TRAINERS: G L Moore 92-723 (127%), M Johnston 55-310 (177%), R Harmon 52-413 (2.5%), Lord Huntingdon 50-247

(202%).

II LEADING JOCKEYS: J Wagner 83-397 (209%), A Clurk 79-672 (118%), L Dettori 77-334 (221%), R Cochrane 69-400 (173%). BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Berbason (340), O'Garney Park (visored,

12.40), Sadethe (visored, 2.40). LONG DISTANCE TRAVELLERS: Noviced (12.40) & Miss Take (1.40) have been sent 213 miles.

12.40 MANNY BERNSTEIN 'IN RUNNING HANDICAP (F) (DIV I) £3,000 2m MANNY BERNSTEIN 'IN RUNNING'

em weight 7st 10b. The handicap weights La Chatalaine 7st 9b, O'Gar-BETTING: 5-2 6 Principe, 11-4 Nouteri, 4-1 Biby Moonshine, 7-1 Catch-ment, 9-1 Scarlet Crescent, 12-1 Coloridge, 14-1 Padaut, 16-1 others

FORM VERDICT

A good opportunity for NOUKARI to add to last week's win here. He escapes a peneity for that auccess over the in-form pair Night City and Wasself (who had besten Billy Moonshine, Scarlet Crescent and La Chatelaine previously) and that form stands out here. The top weight, il Principe, may be

1.10 BERNSTEIN EARLY-PRICE TEXT MAIDEN STAKES (D) £4,000 2YO 6f 02255 CALLITWHATYOUWANT (181) J Pouton 9 0 _ G Fauliner (3) 1

3 RENDITA (25) D Haydn Jones 89 -6 declared -BETYING: 5-11 Prince Prospect, 4-1 La Plazza, 5-1 Rendita, 7-1 Blue-water Bay, 12-1 Califorhatycowant, 33-1 More Stad

FORM VERDICT it will be a surprise if PRINCE PROSPECT cannot land the odds. He ran well on his debut here last week off a stiffish

on both his turl and Equitrack form.

1.40 BERNSTEIN FREEPHONE 0800 821 821 NURSERY H'CAP (E) £3,750 2YO 71 03/21 MISS TAKE (14) (D) P Eore 9.7 ______ T G McLaughlin 4 V 025/40 JACK GOODMAN (1/13) (D) J S Moore 9.2 ____ Dane O'Nell 2 0060 SER PERSE (21) (BF) G L Moore 9.1 ______ M Wighten 1 560062 IPCRESS FALLY (14) J Eustice 9.0 ______ J Tate 3

563062 IPCRESS FILDY (14) J Electrica 9 0 J Tota 3 500500 RAINBOW ROMEO (72) J Pouton 6 B J Alertin Dwyer 5

Miss Take, improving considerably on her seconds in a cou-ple of sellers here when winning at Wolverhampton on her last two starts. Ipcreas Filly went close on her sand debut at

FORM VERDICT Not much form on today's surface to go on, the top weight, GOODMAN is a pacey type who could do well round here and has been found an ordinary small-field nursery for today's

able of better than he has shown so far, but JACK

Wolverhampton and has to be respected while Sir Perse m

2.10 BERNSTEIN BOOKMAKERS CREDIT MAIDEN STAKES (D) £4,000 3YO 71 0000 FUEGIAN (9) M Madgwick 8 0.....

- 5 declared -BETTRICE 4-6 Social Round, 11-4 Daphne's Doll, 8-1 Jonather's Girl, 12-1

Pearty Queen, 25-1 Fueglan, Second Sun

FORM VERDICT

A weak maiden which should go to SOCIAL ROUND, who is improving with experience here and was suited by today's longer trip when falling only narrowly last week. Deplane's Doll

2.40 BERNSTEIN TRADE DIVISION CLAS-SIFIED STAKES (F) £3,000 1m 2f

154531 CASTLES BURNING (11) (CD) C Gyzer 495. G Faultmer (3) 4

- 4 declared -BETTING: evens Prospector's Cove, 6-4 Castles Burning, 7-1 Selisite,

FORM VERDICT

As Sellette and Far-ao-La have shown little aptitude for AW so far, this is likely to resolve itself into a duel between Casties Burning and PROSPECTORS COVE. Jeff Pearce's 5yo, who won in a tester time over today's course and distance 1) days ago, may be the better equipped to handle this smal-field scenano. 3.10 MANNY BERNSTEIN 'IN RUNNING' HANDICAP (F) (DIV II) £3,000 2m

088002 KIKA (19) J Sndger 6 7 11 ... 400001 BALLA D'AIRE (19) B Johnson 3 7 10

FORM VERDICT

ROYAL ROULETTE looks to be coming back to her best and she can take this modest handicap. Brooks Sanders's 4yo is she can take this modest nandicap, brooks sentence and well handicapped on the best of her form on this surface and is weighted to reverse placings with Pertamps Mission, her recent Wolverhampton conqueror, but who has yet to race

3.40 BERNSTEIN BOOKMAKERS 'DOUBLE RESULT' H'CAP (D) £5,000 1m

FORM VERDICT

من المامل

A competitive finale in which one could argue a case for each of the eight runners. SMART KID has been revitational since running here and may be able to make it three out of three on this surface at the expense of Topton.

Hunt is over for new idol

WHILE the hunting horses were vaulting shrubbery and swerving placards on Boxing Day, one of their former numher was himself parading the message for country animals in the hig city.

It is a salutary thought that Teeton Mill, the King George VI Chase winner at Kempton, would still be pootling around rural England had he not been a speculative purchase for a tipping company.

Stephen Winstanley, of The Winning Line, laid out £40.000 for the grey, largely due to the horse's record of excellence in the pointing field. Caroline Bailey, his previous trainer, was happy to let Teeton Mill go as the horse's medical book is as thick as a milkman's ledger. "We decided that the offer was good and it was the right time to sell." she says. "Nobody else would have bought him with his legs like that."

Without that transaction, Teeton Mill would still he in livery in Northamptonshire at Spratton ("the farm protected by the ridge"), and handing out horrible beatings to whatever crossed him in the pointing field. "Hunting was his life before he left here and be'd still be doing it if he was still around," Bailey says, "We always liked him, but obviously we didn't realise he was going to be as good as he showed at Kempton, We would probably have run him in the Cheltenham Foxhunters."

This was so nearly the equivalent of Ronaldo playing out his whole career on the Hackney

The most startling of Teeton Mill's attributes is his jumping. and it is probably true that it is easier to leap without the Pytchley hounds yapping at the top 10 to 15 three-mile your feet and getting in the way. chasers in the country."

BY RICHARD EDMONDSON

The grey now seems to effect the precision landings of an Indian fakir lowering himself on to a bed of nails, yet in the old days be was a hit of a duffer. There were two falls and an unseated in his first four outings.

"He was very weak as a youngster, but the family do get better with age so we were happy to leave him alone," Bailey says. "We didn't over-race him or risk him on the firm, because we got a warning with his legs, and the rewards of that

RICHARD EDMONDSON Nap: Goodtime George (Stratford 12.50) **NB:** Optimistic Thinker (Stratford 3.50)

policy are showing now. "When he did start, he was unlucky. They were both very unfortunate falls because he slipped on landing." Then, one day, he carried Trevor Marks to

victory at Guilsborough and a sequence had begun. As he progressed, Teeton Mill hunted his way over disused rails, hedgerows and whatever else Mother Nature most proficient. "When he was hunting, he used to come up against all sorts of obstacles and I'm sure that helped his jumping," Bailey says, "Hunting helps to hring your legs up. He was always very neat when

he got in close "It's a good schooling ground and I think the top hunters like Spartan Missile, Grittar and now this horse have shown the best can hold their own. If you can get to one of the best pointing horses, they are probably in

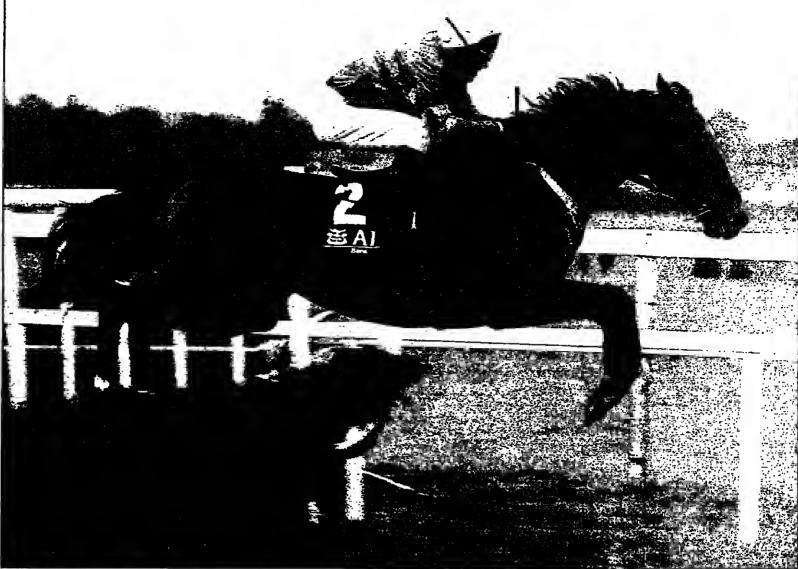
Indeed, for those who think of pointing as little more than sloe gins being passed between the country set then there may have to be a reappraisal. As well as Teeton Mill, this equine division has also produced Cool Dawn, Coome Hill and See More Business in recent years.

It is estimated that between 250 and 300 horses which ran in points last season will run in jumps races under Rules this campaign and the trend seems to be growing. The Irish point-to-point

scene used to be the sport which took place to the humming sound of British owners flicking through a cheque book and a similar noise has been heard on France's racecourses in recent years. It may have been that the purchasers were ignoring comparable produce at their local corner shop. Certainly Teeton Mill's achievements will now raise the stakes for pointers on this island.

"Ours is a competitive game these days and people who think all we are running are slow, old hunters will have to acknowledge that those times have gone," Bailey says. "We have always been offended when owners paid such a lot of could construct. He become money for horses from the Irish point-to-points, but now we are delighted. I hope they all come and huy some more. We may have ruined things for the purchasers but certainly not for the vendors."

Teeton Mill is well on his way to becoming one of the most popular horses ever as he has short-changed no-one. He has made money for his hreeder, Janet Hayward, Bailey and Winstanley, as well as the many nunters who like his style. It could also be that his story will enrich a whole section of the horse racing sport.



حكدًا من الأحلّ

The big horse: Istabraq consolidates his position as Europe's top hurdler with an easy win at Leopardstown yesterday

Heavyweight performance from Istabraq

ner race at odds of 1-10 at Leopardstown yesterday and is on course to defend the Champion Hurdle at Cheltenham in March. His next run will be in the AIG Europe Hurdle at the

Dublin track next month. "He did it well, particularly as he's the heaviest he has ever been in his life here today," Aidan O'Brien, his trainer, said.

Charlie Swan, his regular partner, was delighted with the exercise workout to claim the £13,750 prize. "I loved the way

ISTABRAQ HARDLY broke out he settled and although he was mained positive. "Tm not frightof a canter to win a three-run- a hit long at the last and gave me ahit of a fright he is in great form," Swan reported.

Quizzed about the impressive Christmas Hurdle win of French Holly at Kempton, O'Brien said: "He was impressive as well. I believe be may be coming for the AIG Europe Hurdle, but I wouldn't mind if he stayed at home."

The favourite for French Holly's Kempton race, Dato Star, was nursing his bruised reputation yesterday hut his trainer, Malcolm Jefferson, reened of anything and he'll definitely run in the Champion Hurdle but I don't think I'll run him before then," he said.

"He's had a husy time of it recently and we've run him three times on the Flat and three times over hurdles. We may have gone to the well too often and I think its time to give the horse a rest."

Also taking a rest is French Holly's rider, Andrew Thornton, as a bout of flu has led to an infection in his left leg. Thornton rode Polar Champ to finish

second in the opener at Taunton yesterday, before calling a halt to his afternoon's activity.

wasn't such a good idea to ride," he admitted. "But I was on a bit of a high from my fourtimer and was quite fired up. I have had a hit of flu and the leg which I broke last year has become infected. If I take some antibintics, it may calm it." ■ Tommy Stack was reported

"comfortable and stable" in hospital yesterday where he is being treated for a viral infection which has left him seriously ill.

STRATFORD

HYPERION 2.50 Bold Statement

3.20 Play Games

12.50 Beau Brummie Boy 1.20.Brown Seal 1.50 Far Springa

3.50 Optimistic Thinker (nb) 2.20 GLOWING PATH (nap) GOING: Soft Ell Course is SW of Stratford-on-Avon on A439. Stratford station 1m. ADMISSION: Club

EM; Tattersalls C10; Course S4. Accompanied under 165 free. CAR PARK; S2, rest free.

ELEADING TRAINERS: M Pipe 32 wms from 124 runners (258%). O Nicholson 18-54
1333%, P Hobbs 14-67 (203%), K Beiley 12-62 (194%).

ELEADING JOCKEYS: A P McCoy 34 wins from 146 rides (23.3%). R Johnson 22112 (196%), A Meguire 19-71 (268%), R Durwoody 18-83 (217%).

ELEAVOURIES: 177 wins from 474 roces (auccess rate 37.3%). BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Misty Rain (220).

12.50 RICHARDSONS OF OLDBURY MAIDEN HURDLE (E) (DIV I) £3,000 2m 6f 110yds Penalty Value £2,250

FORM GUIDE

Beau Brummie Boy: Creditable first showing behind Hidebound in Chehanham bumper (Playlord in front of him) and 5th of 15 to Queens Harbour at Towcester. Leading chance on hundles debut with the trip to suit Edge Ahead: Points winner but little promise on two starts this term, the latest an 81 Goodstime George: Second over smiler trips to Mimosa at Chetenham and Buck's Policie at Wincardon. Leading chance on form but doesn't find much in a finish Kaz Kalem: Not good enough in bumpers and possibly needed run on respectance (hurdies debut) when 5th of 13 to Storm Of Gold at Untoketer.

Percy Parkseper: Neck winner from Phar Better in Huntingdon bumper on debut. Fine Percy Panteeper: Neck white from his 4th to Hidebound at Newburry (2m) but flopped be-trande if he stays this trip on his 4th to Hidebound at Newburry (2m) but flopped be-fund Powder Hound at Bangor (2m1f) attenwards.

Playlord: Excellent 3rd to Hidebound at Cheftenham on debut and a 6-length 2nd to Barneys Bell at Lingfield (2m3f) on second hundles. Hard to fancy without recent run Regal Bluff: Little promise in bumpers and hundles. Hard to fancy without recent run Remil Doone: Entitled to need his seasonal run (9th to Perfact Venue at Taunton) fol-

Remi Doone: Entitled to need his seasonal run (8th to Perfect Venue at Tauriton) fol-lowing two bumper runs. Likely to be suited by this test in the mud. Springford: Points winner in Iraland but well beaten in bumpers at Chepstow and Polle-stone. Likely improver for the step up in trip. Strong Magic: Showed ability at Windsor behind Double Tempo and hampered to Win-centon next brib behind Yorkshire Edition. Could figure at big odds. Flying Footsie: 2nd to Moonshine Bay in soft race at Pollestone and tailed off be-land Scriber over a lumper trip on the same course next time.

hand Sorbiere over a longer trip on the same course next time VERDICT: Not for the first time Goodtime George tooked the likely winner at Wincenton only to be run out of it. Percy Perkeeper hear't much in the way of foot so this longer trip in the mud is the obvious move. Playford has still to improve on he fine bumper debut showing and it could pay to chance the hurding newcomer BEALI BRUM-MIE BOY, who should be fit enough for the lask after a run at Towcester.

1	.20	RICHARDSONS OF OLDBURY MAIDEN HURDLE (E) (DI II) £3,000 added 2m 6f 110yds Penaity Valua £2,250
		Osbone
		ACTOR C TRACE (ED) (48) (C and D (68)) N NEW LINE; 9 3
	3-2124	LORD ALEXANDER (18) (A J Cohen & J A Constable) G McCourt 5 11 5 D Fortt (3
7	06	LORD ALEXANDER (10) (12 College of the Life of the College of the Life of the College of the Life of t
2	04-220	LORD OF THE FLIES (35) (Winter Madness) Mass H Knight 5 11 5
5		THE RESIDENCE OF THE PROPERTY AND THE PR
		MONTHS MACIC ACT (15) (J.E. ROSKI) C. MRTI S. T. S
6	500	MONTES MARKET (18) W. C., Conce Destroyability D. Hains 4.11.5G Trades
7	10-	PERFECT FELLOW (279) (Unlucky For Some Partnership) Mrs D Haine 4 ft 5G Romer
A		THE PROPERTY OF SELECTION AND A SELECTION OF THE PROPERTY OF T
		THE CONTRACT OF THE PARTY OF TH
9	0/0-45	THE CHUPPY BUT (30) (1913) COURT IN INC. S. T. C.
10	50-	BROWN SEAL (309) (Mrs P Corbett) Mrs M Jones 6 11 0

- 18 declared BETTING: 5-4 Gentle Rivage, 7-2 Citizen Kane, 5-1 Lord Of The Files, 7-1 Parfect Felicos, 12-1
Redmore Season, 16-1 Lord Alexander, Monasaba Muberaka, Monas & Magic, Brown Seal, 20-1 The

Croppy Boy 1997. King Mole 5 to 5 M A Fitzgerald 4-6 lay (J Old) 11 ran FORM GUIDE

he has changed stables

Citizen Kane: Former fist winner for Alden O'Brier Has contested stronger races but has lealed to improve on his debut 4th to Upgrade at Warwick and was tried in blinkness has been a sendown handicap last time when unplaced to filed Guard. Longer trip today or in a Sendown handicap last time when unplaced to filed Guard. Longer trip today Gentle Rivage: Sound bumper form and a wirmer from Mr Burdes debut at Haydock and Creditable 2nd to the progressive Storm Of Gold on Hurdes debut at Haydock and can be excused poor showing behind stablematic Bosuns Meter at Chellenham last time. Obvious chance in this weaker league Lord Alexander: Tailed off on hurdes debut at Doncester in race won by Brown Lad. Exchanger haves as fellegt to his better over today's longer trip.

Ex-burger horse so likely to do better over today's longer trip.

Ex-burger horse so likely to do better over today's longer trip.

Lord Of The Filest Doncaster bumper winner last season but besten at Hereford and Lord Of The Filest Doncaster bumper winner last season but besten at Hereford and Plumpton prior to taking on not company at Chepstow (failed off behind Rins King).

Microssiba Muberaka: Moderate performer and taked off behind Pride Of Penniker at Tareties.

Morate's Magic: Over 25 lengths behind Gentle Rivage in Haydook bumper. Jumped badly on hurdes debut and tailed off behind Kingsmark at Folksetone badly on hurdes debut and tailed off behind Kingsmark at Folksetone Parted Relitions Beat Seef 20 lengths in bumper at Newton Abbot but well beaten behind Kinstord Rose at Wincarson afterwards. Interesting hurdes newcomer now that his tea reharked parters.

con: Well beaten in two bumpers but likely to appreciate this trip. Stable The Croppy Boy: Unplaced in amsteurs race last time but previously with today's electric when well beatan behind Tiger Lake at Fontwell (2m6f) brown Seel: Arctic Lord mare who staped nicely when 5th of 16 to Jet Specels in Ludiow bumper on debut. Well held at Doncaster next time but tooks a stayer and has Admentic.

Adren Magure aboard for hurdles debut VERDICT: Brown Seat, Radmore Sexon and Partect Fellow are interesting ex-burner horse trying their hand at the staying game Pertect Fellow has joined in Haine burner horses trying their hand at the staying game Pertect Fellow has joined in Haine and can be expected to be halfy tuned up, while Brown Seal is also from a yard to be respected and has Adrian Maguire aboard. But GENTLE RIVAGE has also won a burner and has the right look in this grade on his Haydock second to Storm Of Gold. 1.50 HARTLEY PENSIONS NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D)

	LO,000 doddd 211 Si i loyds i eliaity taibe 24,224
0/P30	CARDIAC ARREST (200) (D Zeffmen) Mes H Knight 6 10 12
304	FAR SPRINGS (770) (A N Solomons) K Balley 7 to 12
FIFT	LOUGH LEIN SPIRIT (15) (liks M Johnsey) Mas C Johnsey 7 to 12
45-57	MUCRUE JACK (15) (Mrs SP Gent) B Llowelyn 8 to 12
23-22F	TIRALDO (14) (SP) (Mrs Gratum, J.L. Palmer & Mrs Griffin) H Daly 5 to 12_ Fl Julyson
	BAYWYN (25) (M R Churches) M Churches 7 10 7 Mr J Young (7)
	WOM A HAND (13) (8 J M Prycil 8 Ryel 8 10 7 J Tizzard
	-7 declared -

BETTING: 6-11 Tirakto, 5-2 Fer Springs, 11-2 Cardiac Arrest, 16-1 Lough Lein Spirit, Nockie Jac FORM GUIDE

Cardiac Arrest: Placed 3rd once from 2 outrigs in Irish point-to-points last spring. Plan prominently until 2 out when 8th in a Towcester novice funds on his only out-ing here last season and should do better over fonces. Per Springs: Returns after a two-year absence and showed plenty of ability in 3

outings over hurdles, particularly when 4th to Not For Turning at Kompton. Looks the one Tireldo has to best Lough Left Spirit: Has won 2 insh point-to-points and showed his first agn of abatty here after being pulled up twoce when 3rd at Hereford lest time. However, was beaten 33 lengths and looks slow. Muckle Jack: Unglaced in 3 point-to-points, he weekened 2 out when 5th in a maiden chase at Leicester this month, but then pulled up in a similar event at Hereford

faced over fances in France and finished 2nd twice here before falling whe eadway at Bangor. Has come up against two useful sorts in Ocean Haw and there and this is easier

Baywyn: Won a meden point-to-point (2 finished) last year and placed twice last
season. No show in 2 selling hundles and chance looks remote

Win A Hand: Staying hundler, but still a maden and tailed to complete the course
twice over lances in 1996.7. Made a satisfactory reappearance when 5th to Indian

Basic over lances in 1996.7.

VERDICT: French import Tiralde has not had much luck in his three outings here and had just begun to close on the wimm when he tell shout at 8 surgor two weeks ago. This race appears to give him the steal opportunity to make amenta, but he may again have to settle for second place behind FAR SPRINGS. Very lightly raced. he is sure to have been well prepared for the chasing bow and his fourth over hun-dies at Kempton in 1996-7 tooks superior to anything this field has achieved.

G GGI 007 TAXIS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS G)

1	2.20	£2,000 added 2m 110yde Penalty Value £1,772
1	431/5-	BALLET ROYAL (USA) (567) (CD) (H Morrers) H Morrers 9 12 0 N Newman (7)
2	05115	GLOWING PATH (44) (D) (BF) (P Stade) R Hodges 8 11 TI R Durwoody
3	/RFP-1	TREMENDISTO (15) (D) (J H Babbrigton) T Wal 8 11 3
4	116-00	HIGHLY REPUTABLE (41) (D) (G C Brevery) G Bravery 6 TI 2
5	0052F0	ALBENTNE (USA) (22) (D) (A C W Price) A Judice 9 Ti 0
6	43164	CROMABOO CROWN (240) (D) Lichn Warder P Beran 7 to 12
7	0U0-5P	PALACE PARADE (USA) (183) (H 5 Charton) A Hobbi 6 10 9
8		BARTON SCAMP (34) (D) (Mass B W Patriet) D Williams 6 100
9		BRITANNIA MILLS (41) (D Gould R J Price 7 E 0 R Jestreon
10		GALLOPING GURS (42) (D) (P Harrington) B Lieuslyn 6 to 0 D McPreff (5)
П		MISTY RAIN (20) flast Chance Reproj J Spearing 4 to 0
12		CROAGH PATRICK (84) (Mts J A Ceary) J Fox 5 10 0
18		ALIMERIAM (34) (GR Hat) Mrs N Macauley 4 100
и	0-P00	CHINGACHGOOK (20) (Mrs 1 Webb) H Webb 4 10 0 L Harvey
15	OP-000	WOODLANDS LAD TOO (26) (Woodlands Lad) P Printered 6 10 D C Liewellyn
_		- 15 declared -

—15 declared —
Minemann: 10st. Weights: Barton Scamp 9a 13bb, Bartonia Mitt: Ser 11tb, Geltoping Gure & Misty Rain
Ser 8lb, Croegh Patrick 9st 5tb, Alimenjam 8st 13bb, Crimpechgook 8st 12bb, Woodlands Lad Roo 8st 7lb,
BETTING: 9-4 Gloring Petits, 9-2 Trecoundates, 6-1 Barton Scamp, 6-1 Highly Reputable, 10-1 Albernine, 14-1 Croegh Patrick, Palseo Parade, Sallet Royal, 14-1 Croenaboo Crown, 20-1 others
1997. Annabel's Boby 8 10-3 W Marston 6-1 (D Wirtle) 14 ran

FORM GUIDE

PORM GUIDE

Ballet Royal: Useful handicap hurder, who ran only once last season. Well handicapped on old form this been dropped tabl) but returns from a 18-month layoft Glowing Patit: In fine tettle and completed a hat-trick at Exerce test month. Purs off the same mark, but appeared to have done enough when 5th at Pumpton last month Tremendiato: Dropped in class to win selling hurde at Hereford Iwo weeks ago on his first run for Trevor Wall. Refused to race once last season and this looks harder Highly Reputables: 4th lower than mark he won off last season. Past-ground performer, who has yet to win on going wome than good.

Altheriske: Deteriorating and on 11b lower mark than he won off last year. Firshed 2nd on Pramish Deteriorating and on 11b lower mark than he won off last year. Firshed 2nd on Pramish Deteriorating and on 11b lower mark than he won off last year. Firshed 2nd on Pramish Deteriorating and on 11b lower mark than he won off last year.

Autorizate: Describing and on this briver from that it is won on less year. It is not critic to Brantiles Way least month, but 8th worse of with Gelloping Gune 44th for 6's is provided Crownsboo Crown: Won a selling hundle at Ludiew (2m. good) last season, but has been raised 4th Has not run since May and doubt about him acting on soft ground pelices Parade: Selling hundle (2m8) winner at Windsor (good) last season, but is all 9th higher despite 2 disappointing runs this term. Best weached until return to form Barton Scamp: Took advantage of a tavourable handloop mark to win at Utitoster (soft) last month. More to do off a 7th higher mark. Britannia Mille: Hes won 3 times on test ground (twice this seeson). Well handcapped

bytamina white his word shall be the country from the complete that may not be as effective on soft going.

Galloping Gunst Won 3 times test season on ground no worse than good and has dropped back down the handlean. None too consistent and going is against him Mistly Rain: Maiden hurder, who had 5 outings in novice company before finishing 6th in a claimer at Luction this month. Birrivered first time, but struggles to stay 2m Croagh Patricks in touch when he fell 4 out (birrivered first time) in a seller at Exercis (Orthorar Has not my since and stables in out of those Has not my since and stables in out of those. eter in October. Has not run since and stable is out of form Altherjens: Poor majoen on the Flat and no better over hundes. Fireshed 7th to Bar-ton Scamp at Uttowere last month and is 3b worse off. Chingachgoold Majden nurder, has his first outing in a handloop after showing it-

the in movices and a claimer at Ludiow this month when Bith to Desert Power, best-en 10 lengths by Misty Rain (6th) Woodlands Laid Too: Has run 17 times over hurdles without reaching the frame and has been tried in blinkers. Remote chance 21th out of the handicep VERDICT: The ground will find out several, but will not worry GLOWING PATH. She has won nine times over hundles, including times times this sessori (all for Dun-

woody), and is back on the mark she was successful off at Exeter last month. 2.50 TOTE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £10,000 added 3m Penalty Value £7,928

1-451F HOODWINKER (11) (D) (P A Howell W Jeries 9 11 10 T Jeniss 8 33-22 BOOTS MADDEN (15) (D) (BF) (I. J. A Phope) Miss V Williams 8 11 10 N Williamson 32-31 BOLD STATEMENT (25) (D) (Downger Couriers Carbonn) H Day 8 11 7 N Downson 32-31 BOLD STATEMENT (25) (C) (Downger Couriers Carbonn) H Day 8 11 7 N Downson 32-32 BARLY DRINKER (25) (C) Centring Williamsol O Sherwood VO 11 7 J A McCarthy 5/12-2 HERHORISE (62) (A Howent-Crappel) Mass A Howent-Crappel II 11 4 N Milliamson 43-42 MALAWI (67) (D) (EF) (W A Backs) Jefferson 8 11 4 Groups 6 Tomay 8 A2-1 ACT IN TIME (19) (D) (Na G C Morenza) T George 6 12 N R Waldey 60/12 (NNIAMALLA (13) (D) (Rope I Spenser) O Selfing 8 11 6 F Kasity (7) 0-234F HORIZAND JACK (25) (D) (K Gbbors & B Cartiel) A Turnel 8 10 12 J Cullishy 14 (Courier Courier Couri

ETTING: 9-2 Act in Time, 5-1 Bold Sinterners, 11-2 Piper's Rock, 6-1 Boots Madden, 8-1 Kinne-halb, 10-1 Hoodwinks, Trouvalle, 12-1 Early Driving, Material, 14-1 Harhorse, Coole Hill, 25-1 High-1997; Code HB 6 11 2 R Johnson 2-1 (D Nicholson) 5 ran

FORM GUIDE

Hoodwinker: In form and suried by plenty of give in the ground. On his highest mark yet and tried in birriears for the second time (pulled up when wore them over hurdles) Baots Madden: Useful, but sometimes does not find much under pressure. Raised this snood winning at Warwick leaf morth, but stable could not be in better form Coole Hift: Taking time to find her form this season, but 3th lower than when winning this last year. However, form of 4th at Hurtrogdon leaf morth is not working but Bold Statement: Probably needed the outing when a distant 3rd to Hoodwinker on his reappearance at Worcester leaf month. Won at Taunton (3m, good) next time and bright chance off only a 2th higher mark. his reappearance at wurceeuer leut munius bright chance off only is 250 higher mark

bright chance off only a 25 higher mark.
Early Orthiter: Winner 3 times over lences at up to 2m4t, this trip seems beyond him.
Weekend 5 out when 45 nd 5 to Luncastrian Jet at Towcester (2m1), sorth last time.
Herhorse: Lightly raced former point-to-pointer. Having first race since December when 2nd to Mouse Bird here (2m1), girls) in October and will like this longer trip.
Malawit: Won at Bangor (3m, good) in October on the first outing for Malcolm Jeterson and struggled on heavy ground when 2nd to Better Times Ahead at Carlisle next time. This going may again be too testing.
Act in Times: hish point-to-point whiner, who confirmed the promise he showed in 3 outings last season when melung all at Chetenham (2m5), good) this month.
Kinnethelist: Needs test of stamina and found the trip too short when 2nd to Indian.
Mee at Exeter (2m3), soft) last time. Has time on her ace and back to her right trip.
Highland Jack: Out of form last season and though a promising 2nd to Taufan Boy

weed at larger (arts, your, last time. Has one on her side and back to her night of Highland Jack: Out of form last season and though a promising 2nd to Taufan Bo over hurdles on Ascot reappearance, he has since disappointed in 5 rune over fence: Piper's Rock: Promising novice, who mode all on its rist outing over fences at Plump fon (2mSt. good) in October. Jumped left when 2nd to King Of Sparts at Wincan ton last month, so should be more at home on this course.

Trouvaille: Consistent and appeared suited by step up to 3m when 3rd to Zaggy Lane eilan Youth at Utsoverier (soft) last time. Makes mistakes, but on her VEROCT: An open contest, which has stracted some promising youngsters just out of the novice stage including BOLD STATEMENT. Tailed all behind Hoodwinker on his respectance at Worcester test month, he showed that was not his true form when driven out to best 300 HR half a length to Teartion next time. That form does not look special, but he is only so; and the handicapper has raised him just 2b.

3.20 CLAYDON EXERCISERS AMATEURS HANDICAP CHASE (E) £4,000 2m 1f 110yds Penalty Value £2,804

- 5 declared -Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weights: Anotherone To Note Bet 12tb. BETTING: 4-5 Play Genes, 3-1 Mr Bean, 8-2 River Leven, 7-1 Notebie Exception, 33-1 Anoth

1997: Lobster Cottage 9 10 12 Mr R Waktey (5) 9-4 JL lav (K Bailey) 6 ran

Play Games: Likes plenty of cut in the ground and going for 6th win of the year. Eased down when beating High Mood at Worcester test time and only fill higher today. Top chance with leading attracture boolead. Mr Beatt: Dropped to seeing company to beat Pallactum Boy at Chepstow and then 2nd of 3 finishers when beaten 28 lengths by influence Pedier at Mereford. Has never when the conditions are seen as one of exercities this. won on ground as soft as this Notable Properties Fort

won on ground as soft as this
Notable Exceptions Fast-ground performer in his days with Mary Reveley so soft ground
a big worry. Hasn't shown much of late for his owner-jookey
River Leven: Without a win for two years but played a prominent part to third last
when 3rd to Busidand Lad at Windsor on most recent outing. Lady rider has notched 17 were in point-to-points.

Anotherone To Note: Stayed on when 4th to Irish Dominion in seller at Lucilow last time. First attempt for 14 months and a long way out of the hendicap proper

VERDICT: River Leven gets plenty of weight and should be up with the pace throughour in the capable hands of Lucy Peards. But Richard Forristal is the top boy and his mount PLAY GAMES will reliable the ground. The weight has to be defed but the manner of his baset success at Worcester suggests he is up to the task.

EBF 'NATIONAL HUNT' NOVICE HURDLE (QUALIFIER) (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 110yds Penaity Value £2,583 (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 110yds Penalty Value £2,583
60F BORDTOWN LORD (ST) (M Roberts) M Roberts 5 n 0. S Ducely
630 COCKBURY (SS) (R Habris & G Harvey) Ms A J Bootby 4 n 0. D Lealy
6403 COUNTRY (SS) (R Habris & G Harvey) Ms A J Bootby 4 n 0. D Lealy
6403 COUNTRY (SS) (R Habris & G Harvey) Ms A J Bootby 4 n 0. J Tazand
5-603F GO-ONNYSON (16) (Imperal Group) M Babbage 5 n 0. N Williamson
55 MASTER MULLIGAN (SS) (As) L M Dreber) 8 Smart 5 n 0. C Usesselyin
102 OPTIMISTIC THINKER (12) (M R C Deperment) T George 4 n 0. A P McCoy
60 PHOTOPHIST (Halp (Proteinship A Kamel 5 n 0. L Harvey
400 PHIRUS (42) 6 Wirfseld Winght) D Ncholon 5 n 0. R Johnson
60-22 TILLI AND TURN (28) (BP) (West Merca Fork Tacks) P Hotbs 4 n 0. R Dansoody
WARDSONG (Robinson Website Ltd) A Tamel 4 n 0. P Hidde
4250 DEEP C DRVA (236) (As R Murdoch) M Honderson 6 n 0. M A Respende
600-0 KABYLE OURST (FR) (25) (A P Paton) R Daton 5 n 9. J Cultory
6-12 declared -

- 12 deciared BETTING: 11-4 Optimistic Thicker, 7-2 Deep C Dive, 4-1 Tit. And Turn, 11-2 Refus, 7-1 Country
Kris, 12-1 Berotown Lord, Go-onenyson, 12-1 Windsong, Master Mulligan, 20-1 others
597. Young Spartacus 4 Ti 0 5 Wyrne 8-1 (T Forster) 12 run FORM GUIDE

Borotown Lord: Creditable first bumper showing behind Mr Music Men at Kempton and close up in 3rd when falling at Windsor on hurdles debut. May need longer trip Cockbury: Half-brother to a winning inship classes. Makes hurdles debut after three bumper starts (besten long way behind Prosty Canyon at Chepstow last time) Country Kriss Consistent but short of pace last season and ran amiliar race at Exeter on reappearancs when an 11-length 3rd to Lizzys First Go-Onniverer: Modest burner form and taded over longer trip at Plumoton last time (5th to Santabless). Has an each-way chance on earlier 3rd to hot tavourite at Worcester with loday's partner aboard

Master Multigern: Fifth in Newbury bumper and filled same spot behind John David at Chescow last month (not race). Could show up well on this first hundes attempt Optimistic Thinker: Heavy-ground winner of bumper at Market Rasen and caught a terter on hundes debut when an 8-length 2nd to Buckside at LingSeid. Leading chance in this weaker company Photofirst: Soon tailed off on debut at Windsor in race won by Mersey Beat

Purkers: Favourite on bumper debut when 4th to Springfield Scally at Worcester. Mod-est showing on hurdles debut behind Storm Of Gold at Haydock (2m41) and may be best a state of the modes shorter from the country of the state of the country of

on nurses cape, and an arrangement of ability at Hereford on reappearance when Kabulla Quast. Showed her first girmner of ability at Hereford on reappearance when Kabylie Ouest: Showed her first girmmer of ab 7th of 15 to Flamengo. May still struggle in this

VERDICT: Tony McCoy is on board OPTIMISTIC THINKER for the first time since VEHILLE I Tory McCoy is on board OF tention to Tritine. In or the tirst time since the bumper win and Erion Georgets charge first nothing of the cather of Budisade to contend with boday. Budisades trainer Nicky Henderson has taken charge of Deep C Over so he knows what the mare has to beet. Deep C Over inset rate a big denger with Henderson's horses being in such great form. Rufflue, who started as short as 5-4 when making his debut at Worcester, is another probably capable of better then he has shown, and Titt And Turn has to be respected on the ability shown in bumpers.

"In hindsight, maybe it

RACING RESULTS

HAYDOCK

...5 Durack 13-2 C Uswellyn 8-13 fav dy ____R Garritty 12-1 2. Beau _____C Lhewellyn 8-13 fav 5. Spienciid Melody ____R Garritty 12-1 Also ran: 11-2 Grund Gouser, 10-1 Clear Skies (4th), 12-1 Wrangel, 20-1 Southern-down (5th), 25-1 Time After Thyrie (6th), 50-1 Karzhang, 66-1 Elsaroni, 100-1 Gold-11 ran. 4, 1 1/4, 11, dist. 23. (Mrs S Smith, Bin-

gley). Tota: wn E6.to; places £140, £120, £190 DF. £3.70, CSF: £1097. A McCerthy 8-11 fav

Gary Lyons 25-1 4 ran. Dist, dist. (O Sherwood, Upper Lam-bourn). Yote: win £170. DF: £140. CSF: £213. Only three finished. Non Runner: Chartie

lev Place (5th). 5 ran. 8, 7t. 4, 17. (J.J. O'Neill, Pennth) Tote: wn £2.60; places £180, £190, DF: £5.70. C5F: £10.33.

3 ran. 91/h, dist. (P Nicholis, Shepton Mallet). Tote: win £1.50. Dual Forecast. £1.10

Also: 3-1 Phar Echo, 6-1 Minets Derby, 10-1 Single Sourcing (4th), 12-1 Kentucky Gold, 12-1 Sorahan Cross (5th), 14-1 High Thyne, 20-1 Alastean Heir (5th), 20-1 Forr Dreaming, 100-1 Cregg Rosa, 100-1 xall Crossett.

13 ran. 11/4, 5, 6, 2, 9 (T Easterby, Malton). Tota: wm £410; places £1.70, £2.10, £3.40, DF: £12.50, CSF: £23.43 Tricast: £192.35 Tote Trifecta: £328.80

3.35; (2m 7f 110yds, novice hicap hurdle)
1. YOU'RE AGOODUN A P McCoy 5-2 fav Also: 9-2 Teal Bay (6th), 9-2 True Mission. 5-1 Rockciffe Gossp (5th), 9-1 Jabru, 12-1 Owtabeatm, 20-1 Shared Risk, 33-1 Plaid Maid (4th). 10 ran. 6, 1%, 13, 5, 26 (M Pipe, Wellington). Tote: wn £400; places £1.70, £2.40, £180. OF: £23.40. CSF: £22.02. Tncast:

£709.97. Piacepot: £18.20. Quadpot: £10.00.

MUSSELBURGH

12.25: 1. MR LURPAK (Mr J P McNamara) 2-1; 2. Northern Union 7-2; 3. Oh So Cosy 5-4 fax. B ran. 1, 14. (F Murphy, Middleham). Totae £280; £130, £130, £110 DF: £800 CSF:

2854. 12.56: 1. ALBRIGHTON (Mr J P McNamera) 4-1; 2. Roveretto 5-2; 3. Polo Venture 3-1 13 mm. 9-4 fav Naviasky (4th), 9, 12. (F Murphy, McGelenan). Total: ER70; £240, £160, £110. DF: £550. CSF: £1443. 1.25: 1. ARDRINA (Mr J P McNemara) 2-5 fav. 2. Manhattan Rainbow 8-1; 3. Keep Clear 7:-2. 5 ran. 7, 26. (F Murphy, Middleham) Tota: \$150; \$110, \$140 DF: \$210 CSF: \$460 NR: Jessole 1.55: 1. BIT O MAGIC (A Dobbn) 5-1; 2.

Donna's Dancer 18-1: 3. Pleaser Donna's Dancer 18-1; 3. Peasectaspunch 14-1, 8 rgn. 1-3 fav Farceur du Mesnil (fell). 0, 9 (R.Alan, Comhil-on-Tweed). Tote: 25.70; 2160, 24.30, 53.80, DF: 2184.90, CSF: 272.01, 2.25: 1, HUNTING SLANE (A Dobbin) 5-1; 2. Joe Buzz 2-1 fav; 3. Wicklow Way 8-1 7 ran. 20, 4. (C Grant, Billincham), Tota: 2540; 0290, 0180, DF: 0900, CSF: 0588 Only three

2.55: 1. SHANAGARRY (Mr J P McNamera) 4-1; 2. Master Beverd 6-4 tax, 4 ran. 8. (F Murphy Middeham) Tota: 5440 DF: 5280. CSF: \$10.04. Only two finished. 3.25: 1. NATIVE AFFAIR (W Dowling) 71-10 lav; 2. Vibeski 16-1; 3. Plenty Courage 33-1. 10 ran, 5.2%. (i. Lungo, Carrutherstown). Tota: £2.70: £2.20. £2.20. £7.50. DF: £28.20. CSF: £21.44. NRs: Cuchutainn, Handsome

Plecepot: £212.50. Quadpot: £38.30. Plece 5: £109.80. Plece 5: £104.69.

Stratford 2.50

FIRST SHOW

Horse	C	Н	L		_1
Act in Time	41	5-1	6.2	5-1	4-1
Bold Statement	11-2	5-1	5-1	11-2	5-1
Piper's Rock	5-1	11-2	9-2	11-2	5-1
Books Medden	6-1	5-1	11-2	13-2	6-1
Kinnahalia	B-1	15-2	8-1	13-2	7-1
Hoodwinter	12-1	9-1	TI-1	11-1	10-1
Trouvaille	10-1	12-1	10-1	TI-1	12-1
Herhorse	12-1	12-1	12.1	10-1	141
Maked	91	12-1	74-1	12-1	14-1
Cools Hitt	12:1	12-1	15-1	10-1	14-1
Early Drinker	16-1	12-1	12-1	16-1	12-1
Highland Jack	25-1	20-1	25-1	20-1	25-1
Евстнику, а ср.					
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LINGFIELD

1.15; 1. ADELPHI BOY (R Studholme) 4-1; 2. Thomasby Girl 8-1; 3. College Blue 10-1 Stan. 2-1 for Lody Caroline 5tnl. %, hd. (M Chapman). Tote: \$2.80; £170, £400. DF: £23-90. CSF; £30.20 1.45; 1. MUKARRAB (A Cultione) 7-2; 2. Alig Dancer 10-1; 3. Tear White 5-2 fav. 10 ran. 1%, hd. (D Chapman). Tote: £160; £180, £180, £2-20. DF: £75.0. CSF; £441. Tote 4: £2.20 DF: £17.50. CSF: £34.31 Tricas

HYPERION (Chris Corrigan) was in excellent form at Taunton, Lingfield and Musselburgh yesterday. His winning selections at the Somerset track were: Rollcall 13-2, Top Skipper 3-1 and Cento 9-1. At Lingfield, Meteor Strike 14-1 and Rayik 7-4 were successful, while his three Musselburgh winners included Mr Lurpak 2-1 and Shanagarry 4-1. Hyperion also tipped two winners at Haydock.

2.15; 1. QUESTUARY (Candy Morts) 3-1 fav; 2. Misprint B-1; 3. Burtons Foliy 4-1.7 ran. 5. 4. (M. Channon), Tote: £470; £270, £310. DF: £39,20, CSF: £26,62, NRs: Espril Du Coeux, First Foray. 2.45: 1. METEOR STRIKE (T Sprake) 14-1. 2. White Plains 12-1; 3. Night City 9-2. 8 ran. 3-1 fav Elhabut (6th), 2 /r. 5. (Mrs A Perran. 3-1 fav Elisabub (8th), 2th. 5, (Afr. A Per-rett), Totie: 1:640; 2260, 6200 DF: 65510, CSF: 5:8121, Tricast: 580216, 3, 15: 1, RAVIK (N. Cariste), 7-4 fav; 2, Royal German, 2-1, 3, Zade 10-1, 9 ran. 3th., 2, (1) Berry, Totie: 6300; 5110, 5160, 6320, DF: 6330

CSF: \$490. 3.45: 1. BEST QUEST (D Sweeney) 11-2; 2. Elway Prince 7-2 far. 3. Beguile 4-1.8 ran. 11/l. nk. (K Burke) Tote: \$920; \$190, \$230, \$170. OF: \$1990. CSF: \$2423. Troast: \$9071. After stewards inquiry, the result stood. Place of: \$78450. Quadqoot: \$2240. Place 6: \$18123. Place 5: \$2163.

TAUNTON 12.50: 1. YOKKI MOPPIE (M A Fitzgerad) 7-2; 2. Polar Champ 5-1; 3. Gladiateur IV 7-2 13 ran. 3-1 lav Ferny Hill. 10, 15. (N Henderson), Tota: \$520, £180, £180, £120, DF: £990 CSF: £2122 Non Runner: Fly It Alone 2990 CSF: 12/22 Nor Humer: Fly if Alone 1.20: 1. ROLLCALL (R Wolgeri 13-2; 2. Ori-ental Boy 7-4 tay; 3. Dumnicks View 50-1 14 ran. 5, 6 (R Aher) Tota: 1720; (220, 190, 1050) DF: 1090 CSF: £1750, Tricast: 552236. 1.50: 1. TOP SKIPPER (M A Fitzgerald) 3-1 fay: 2. Rehlote Let 7, 2: 3. Hosterus Street

tav; 2. Pablo's Jet 7-2; 3. Hot 12-1 11 ram. 15.6 (V Greenway). Tota: £3.90; £120 £WQ £610 DF: £560 CSF: £1293. Tr cast: £104.78. 2.20: 1.TBME FOR ACTION (J Mages) 5-2 tax;

ntic Mist 4-1; 3. Dragon King 5-1 B 2. Attentic Mist 4-1; 3. Drogon Wing 5-1. 8 ran. 13, 5. (C Mann). Tota: £3.70; £140. £130, £130. £130. £152. £152. £140. £152. \$12206 NR: The Boozing Brief 3.20: 1. NO FIDDLING (E Husband) 12-1; 2 Beatson 11-4 fav. 3. Space Cappa 40-1 14 ran. 1/4, 14 (G McCourt), Tote: £17.70, £440, 5220 5100 DF: 53770 CSF: 6162 Treast: 5120513. NRs: Coolree, Glaisnock Lad. 3.50: 1. CRACK SHOT (N Williamson) 7-2; 2. Kentford Busy B 6-1; 3. Cassis 3-1 12 rtin. 9-4 fev Elmside (4th), 11/, 2. (J Neville). Tota: 94.70; C200, 2150, C200, DF: 2530

Jackpot: not work pool of £14.808.58 carried forward to Stratford today.
Placepot: £2120. Quadpot: £1050.
Place 5: £2533. Place 5: £1059.

CSF: \$2413. NR: Our Lothe

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Gallagher's rethink gives Arsenal hope

ARSENAL WERE last night hoping that the season of goodwill from referees to players continues after Aston Villa's goalkeeper was given a reprieve by the referee Dermot Gallagher for his sending-off in the Boxing Day game against Black-

Gallagher plans to write to the Football Association informing them that he made a "genuine error of judgment" in Oakes' case - and that will give hope to Arsene Wenger in his hid to force another referee, Uriah Rennie, into a similar change of heart over the red card he showed Patrick Vieira for use of the elbow in Monday's game at Charlton.

While Villa's hopes of continuing their quest for the Premiership title will be vastly improved by the news. Arsenal's chances of retaining the championship could be harmed irreparably by a suspension for Vieira, according to their former player Alan Smith.

The Oakes reprieve came evidence with his linesman. Dave Horlick, and the Premier League referee's officer, Philip Don. The incident occurred with Villa trailing 1-0 in a game they went on to lose 2-1, and one and inform them an error was which left the Villa manager, John Gregory, fuming with Gallagher.

Oakes caught a loose ball just inside his own area with his and his report. momentum carrying him forly released the ball as he reached the 18-yard line. Gal-Issue a red card after the linesman had flagged, wrongly as it turned out, to indicate that Oakes had handled the ball

By Mark Pierson

cameras proving Oakes did not spurred Gallagher to look at seriously disrupt their chances video replays along with Horlick and Don.

A Premier League spokesman, Mike Lee, said: "Dermot Gallagher in consultation with Philip Don, the Premier League's referees' officer, has reviewed the video of the sending-off of Aston Villa goalkeeper Michael Oakes in the game against Blackburn.

"In discussion with referee's assistant Dave Horlick, they have concluded that there was a genuine error of judgment by the assistant.

"Mr Gallagher will now be writing to the FA to inform them of his conclusion, with a view to the sending-off not being dealt with as a disciplinary matter."

The matter is now in the hands of the FA, who are certain to accept the reconsidered views of Gallagher and after Gallagher reviewed video quash Oakes' red card, according to Don.

Don said: "At the end of the day we want to see the right decisions are made and Dermot has agreed to write to the FA suspensions.

"I would now expect the FA to reverse the decision once they receive Dermot's letter

"It's ohviously good news ward, although he immediate- for Aston Villa, hut if we are seen to be making the right moves, then on this occasion it's assistant."

Meanwhile, Vietra is due for Arsenal's sixth player this sea-

low cards between them this season, a record that their forhandle the ball out of his area, mer striker Smith feels will of defending tha title.

"It is a problem," said Smith, who was booked just once in his entire Arsenal career, in the 1993 FA Cup final replay against Sheffield Wednesday at Wembley. "With all the injuries Arsenal have had the last thing they need is to lose players like Vieira through suspension.

"I felt for him because his sending-off at Charlton looked harsh, and if the suspension is upheld then they will miss

Smith, like everybody else cannot understand why Arsenal attract such a bad record, but he fears it will be harmful in the long-run.

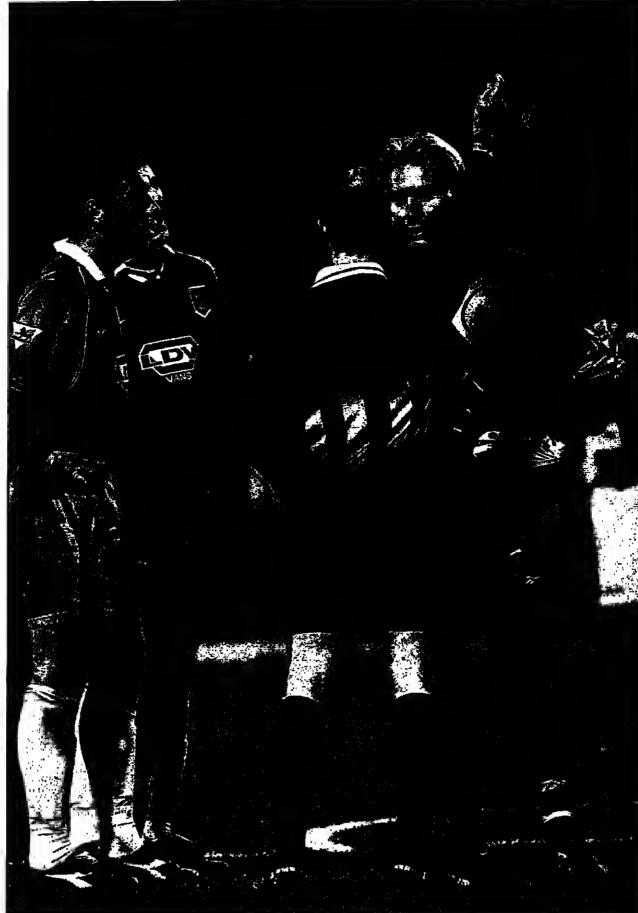
He said: "It has been a longstanding problem, the discipline at Arsenal. It is something which doesn't get any better. "Arsène needs all his boys to-

gether. It is bad enough that they are not going to have Nicolas Anelka and Dennis Bergkamp for a while through injury - that will affect them without having to worry about

"In the final run-in last season Arsenal had everybody available, and I think they need that if they are going to have a good chance of retaining their

Arsenal have appealed to referee Rennie to reverse Vieira's red card after television. evidence had suggested the oflagher, bowever, decided to to the credit of the referce's fence was not as serious as it

> Besides Vieira, the other a suspension after he became five Arsenal players to be dismissed this season are Petit, son to be sent off, in Monday's Lee Dixon, Martin Keown, Ray



game at Charlton. The Gunners Parlour and Gilles Grimandi. Aston Villa's Michael Oakes is dismissed by Dermot Gallagher at Ewood Park on Boxing Day

Freund to make friends at Spurs Beckenbauer Graham is convinced he will running through the side now, that Graham is getting the coach, Erich Ribbeck. Freund GEORGE GRAHAM can hardly

wait for Steffen Freund, Tottenham's latest German import, to arrive in the new year and provide the glint of steel which he believes is fundamental to his White Hart Lane

But having wrapped up the £750,000 signing of the tough-tackling international midfielder from Borussia Dortmund last week, Graham has agreed to honour Freund's commitment to a family holiday with his wife. Ilka, and their two children during the Bundeslign's midseason winter hreak.

Freund, a qualified locksmith, is expected to make his Tottenham debut at Sheffield

soon become known to the Spurs fans as their midfield enforcer as well as a player who can open more doors for an already well-equipped attack.

Jürgen Klinsmann was the star who restored charisma to Tottenham - even during some field and make others play. dark days under previous managers. Ossie Ardiles. Gerry Francis and Christian Gross but Freund is the battler Graham believes Spurs now need most of all to help establish an era of lasting success.

"I'm delighted to have signed him and he will be coming here

hut we still need something more to make sure the improvement continues.

> "It's something that the top teams like Manchester United. Arsenal and Chelsea all have, players who dominate the mid-"This guy has all the experi-

ence in the world with Borussia Dortmund in their European campaigns and with Germany as part of their squad in Euro 96 and the World Cup finals. It will be a couple of weeks before he's The Spurs manager said: here, but he'll soon become a

big favourite with the fans." Monday's 4-1 win over Everto do what he is good at - win- ton was Tottenham's most conning the ball and then passing it. clusive White Hart Lane victory he has not yet figured in the

maximum out of a squad wbo flirted dangerously with relegation last season. The win extended an unbeaten bome record under Graham to eight matches, but he is far from satisfied with a respectable mid-

Freund is only Graham's second signing for Spurs, and he is still waiting for the £1.6m former Ipswich full-back, Mauricio Taricco, to recover fully from an ankle injury after his move to Tottenham five

table position.

Freund has 21 German caps, hut his international career has been dogged by injuries and "There is great enthusiasm for two years and further proof plans of the new German

was born in Brandenburg and was one of the first East German players to be capped by the played for Schalke 04 before joining Borussia Dortmund in

His contract at Dortmund was due to expire at the end of this season and be would have become a free agent. The Tottenham director of football, David Pleat, said: "We wanted to do the deal now because Freund is the kind of midfield action man that every club needs."

Now Graham is looking at the French midfielders Alain Goma (Paris St Germain) and Michael Debeve (Lens) as pos-

rector, Vic Wakeling, under-

lined the commitment to their

existing customers will not

alter, despite the introduction of

fears Brazil

unified international side. He FRANZ BECKENBAUER be- 40,000, with one ground able to lieves Brazil poses a greater accommodate 80,000-plus and threat to Germany's hopes of staging the 2006 World Cup than England, but the suggestion could be another attempt to belittle England's bid. The initial deadline for applications is two days away.

The newly elected vice-president of the German Football Association and head of Germany's World Cup organising committee personally handed in his country's hid to Fifa, the world game's ruling body.

England, Brazil, South Africa, Egypt, Ghana and Morocco are the other six nations vying for the right to stage the tournament, with the latter three regarded as virtual non-starters. Candidates have until 30 April next year to confirm their official hid. A Fifa spokesman said he did not expect Argentina and Nigeria to apply.

Beckenbauer said: "It's up to us. We have to show the world that Germany is the best place to organise a World Cup. But I regard Brazil as the more dangerous rival to Germany than England, although we still have a lot of homework to do."

Beckenbauer thinks South Africa, the apparent choice of the Fifa president, Sepp Blatter, will struggle to meet the strict criteria for hosting the World Cup laid down by the game's governing body. Fifa require that eight to 12 stadiums have a capacity of at least great?"

another over 60,000.

In the first week of January, Fifa will start asking questions concerning security, taxes, customs, visas and telecommunications, before delving into other matters like infrastructure, accommodation and transport facilities in the bidding countries, as well as arrangements for ticket sales and the specific circumstances of the grounds included in the bids.

Beckenbauer and the German FA's president, Egidius Braun, are soon to meet the German finance minister, Oskar Lafontaine, and the home secretary, Otto Schily, to ask them to abolish certain taxes, which if enforced would reduce Fifa's profits. ■ Joseph Blatter, the chairman

of Fifa, is concerned about the

influx of money into football watering down its real value as a people's sport. In an article in Germany's sports weekly Kicker, Blatter also says he is also concerned by the influence of husiness and television on the game. "Even accepting the rules of supply and demand, we must still ask ourselves whether too much money comes into play, whether the players have lost their moderation and become too egotistical and influential? Is not the influence of industry, television, and even politics too

Blackburn finally sign Ward ^c for £4.5m

ASHLEY WARD last night became Brian Kidd's second signing since he took over as Blackburn's manager, moving to Ewood Park for £4.5m from Barnsley on a four and a half year contract believed to be worth £14,000 a week. Ward is seen as the perfect

substitute for Chris Sutton, who will miss the next six weeks after suffering a knee injury during the 2-1 victory over Aston Villa on Boxing Day. The 28-year-old, who follows the ex-Newcastle winger Keith Gillespie to the club, looks certain to make his debut in this Saturday's FA Cup third round tie at home to Charlton.

Newcastle are expected to unveil the defender Didier Domi as their latest signing this morning for a fee of around £4m from Paris St-Germain. Domi was on Tyneside yesterday, but did not travel to Liverpool with the squad.

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The former French interna-tional Mickaël Madar is moving the other way and joining PSG on a six-month loan from Everton, the French club said yesterday. The 30-year-old striker joined Everton a year ago from the Spanish club, Deportivo La

The Rangers manager, Dick Advocaat, has refused to commit himseif to the club beyond his existing two-year contract. The Dutchman stressed that talk of his long-term future is premature, even though he has said he thinks the joh of making Rangers as strong as he would like will take longer than the year and a half remaining on his present deal.

The Scottish veteran striker John McGinlay has signed an 18month contract with Oldham Athletic. The 34-year-old has been paid on a match-to-match basis since joining the Second Division strugglers from Bradford in October, after recovering from persistent Achilles tendon trouble that ended his hopes of going to the World Cup in France with Scotland.

McGinlay will be reminded of one of his finest moments when he faces Chelsea in the FA Cup third round at Boundary Park on Saturday. He was part of the Bolton team that had remarkable cup runs in 1996. scoring m a memorable League Cup victory over Chelsea.

McGinlay said: "Trn pleased to have got this contract sorted out. Initially Oldham were only offering me a deal until the end of the season, but to get the extra year is a big boost.

Preston's manager, Davice Moyes, will use £600,000 from coffers swelled by income from the forthcoming FA Cup tie against Arsenal to finance a club record bid for Richard Cresswell. Moyes has made an offer for the York striker who is also being watched by Premier League clubs. York value Cresswell at £1m.

Preston will have a sell-out crowd at Deepdale against the Double winners and with live TV coverage they are guaranteed around £300,000 from the night.

The veteran Italian midfielder, Nicola Berti, is leaving Tottenham to join Fluminense in Brazil. The Rio club said yesterday that the 31-year-old would sign a two-year contract with them on Saturday. The contract, said to be worth £250,000 a year is expected to be financed in part by Brazil's FonteCindam investment bank,

Berti, who played for Italy in the World Cups of 1990 and 1994. is part of a rebuilding campaign by Fluminense, who slipped into the equivalent of the Third Division last season after being one of Brazil's leading clubs in the Eighties .

The 31-year-old French defender, Jean-Guy Wallemme, who joined Coventry from Lens in the summer, is expected to complete his return to France today by signing for Sochaux.

Oxford to launch League pay-per-view discussion with their member extra revenue for the clubs and derland at the Manor Ground clubs in a hid to show up to four the League at a time when it is television deal. Spokesman the 21st century." The Sky Sports managing di-

on 27 Fehruary will make football history when it becomes the first competitive Football League game in this country to be screened via pay-per-view.

The League yesterday announced details surrounding their pay-per-view experiment which they hope will lead to six matches broadcast by the end Manchester City's trip to

Coichester on 20 March has also been earmarked for live coverage, with both matches schedhroadcast hy Sky Box Office.

striker Hakan Sukur.

Dugarry, 26, is believed to be

on the point of joining the Ital-

ian Serie A giants from Mar-

seilles for around 14 billion lire

(£5.2m), the Italian newspaper

Gazzetta dello Sport reported

yesterday. It said Dugarry

would join the Italian champi-

ons after the new year and

would be ready to face his for-

mer club Milan in a league

match on 6 January. Dugarry a possible £9m.

Juventus may link

Dugarry and Sukur

JUVENTUS ARE poised to pull has a clause in his contract

off a double transfer coup and which permits him to leave

link the French World Cup win- Marseilles at the end of this sea-

ning forward Christophe son for 14 hillion lire, but the

Dugarry with leading Turkisb French club would be willing to

Gazzetta said.

more live games, with each available to Sky subscribers for a one-off fee of £7.95.

Sky's coverage already takes in 60 matches plus the play-offs. and the League chief executive, Richard Scudamore, said: "It has long been known that football has been looking at the arrangements are unaffected." opportunities offered by payper-game broadcasting.

"We feel the time is right to show a limited number of games and Sky have helped us to do this. Television and footuled for a 6pm kick-off and hall are constantly evolving and we have to be responsible.

"These matches will bring in

release him immediately, the

Juventus have been scour-

ing the transfer market for a re-

placement for Alessandro Del

Piero, who has torn cruciate lig-

And Sukur has revealed

that he is also considering a

move to Juventus from

Galatasaray in a transfer

which newspapers say is worth

aments in his left knee.

very much needed, and fans who cannot get a ticket or travel to a game will welcome the chance to see them. However, both the Football League and Sky Television want to keep the correct balance of coverage and to ensure that existing broadcast

> It is believed the financial split will see Sky take half of the subscribed fee, with the rest then divided three ways between the home team, away side and the Football League. The League believes payper-view will provide them with much-needed leverage when it

Chris Hull said: "This is an opportunity for us to gather information and research into the pay-per-view concept. This is not a money-making exercise. "There's also an element of customer care involved as we

will be targeting matches which will quite clearly have a full capacity, with many fans unable to attend. The main thing is that pay-per-view will be beneficial to the Football League come the next round of TV deal negotiations, whenever they will be.

per-view, which will form a sig- play-off finals live."

He said: "This will not affect our existing live coverage of Sky Sports in any way. During this experiment, Sky Box Office will simply offer extra live matches. concentrating on games

pay-per-view.

which look sure to be sell-outs. "Sky Sports will continue to show 60 live games from across "We will be in possession of the divisions of the Nationwide more details regarding pay Football League, plus all three

Palmeiras relish living up to their bad-boy image

BRAZIL

FOR THE second time this season Palmeiras have been accused of violent and unsportsmanlike conduct. On Tuesday, Cruzeiro, their opponents in the Copa Mercosur final, left no one in any doubt as to their feelings. "Palmeiras do not play hard, they play violently, they have been kicking players off the ball for a

coach, Levir Culpi. "They celebrate goals with obscene gestures, provoke our winning the ball-boys vanish." ance because they claimed national team for the second

long time," said the Cruzeiro



AROUND THE WORLD EDITED BY RICHARD WETHERELL

tion for their game against Palmeiras earlier this season was to take out special insur-

This could be seen as an

overreaction to robust play until you realise that the Palmeiras coach, Luiz Felipe Scolari, has publicly urged his team to commit more fouls.

It could also been seen as a rather foolhardy reaction from Culpi as his team's 3-1 loss in the second leg forced a decider - to be played at Palmeiras.

RUSSIA OLEG ROMANTSEV, the head coach of the champions, Spartak Moscow, took charge of the

the team from São Paulo was time on Monday. He succeeded Anatoly Byshovets, sacked this month after five months in charge and six consecutive losses, including three European Championship qualifiers.

Romantsev previously led Russia to the finals of Euro 96 but was dismissed after they gained just one point from three games.

SPAIN

DESPITE A 5-0 thrashing of Nigeria last week the chances of Catalonia entering separate teams in major competitions has been quickly dismissed. The minister of Catalonia".

state for sport, Santiago Fisas, said: "I'm not against the idea of regional selections playing think it is possible given Span ish legislation, along with the regulations of the International Olympic Committee and international federations, that regional selections can take precedence over a Span-

ish national team." The friendly was played before an almost capacity crowd at the Barcelona's Olympic Stadium, with hanners demanding sporting independence and "Freedom for

Pichi Alonso, the Catalonia coach, has no doubts about his side's capabilities. "I think we friendly fixtures but I don't are at the level of national teams like Belgium or Scotland," he said.

SWAZILAND

THE COUNTRY'S police force are having a wage cut to subsidise their team's participation in next year's Confederation of African Football Cup. All 2,500 policemen are to have more than £5 deducted from their next pay packet so their Royal Leopards can play Nkana FC of Zamhia in the first round in March

حكذا من الاحل

BARBARIANS RUGBY no longer matters a fig. unless you har no relish the opportunity ling your former you can ar let, the state of the st Miller makes turkeys of Tigers

play a hit Eric Miller, the Lion who failed to cut the mustard amongst the Tigers of Leicester, reintroduced himself to the Welford Road faithful yesterday afternoon and took immense pleasure in force-feeding Dean Richards, Martin Johnson and company an unpalatable help-

ing of ice-cold turkey. Eighteen months ago, Miller was the talk of this remarkable sporting town; christened the Ireland. It has done him the new Deano" by a crowd reared on back-row brilliance, he made the Lions tour of South Africa with something to spare and would have started Machacek, he gave his old club-

RUGBY UNION

BY CHRIS HEWETT

Barbarians

he not fallen ill 48 hours before kick-off. At which point, his career went into free-fall. His form and fitness dipped. Leicester stopped picking him and his appetite quickly disappeared in the same direction as his confidence.

Hence his decision to cut his losses and head back home to world of good, clearly. Together with his no-nonsense partners from mainland Europe. Massimo Giovanelli and Jan the first Test in Cape Town had mates their higgest seasonal

hurry-up since they last tackled the new year sales. Miller's try four minutes into the second half bore the stamp of a genuine footballer and it gave the Baa-Baas, who spent all of four hours preparing for the game. the launch-pad for a third consecutive victory over their traditional Christmas bosts.

tish borders, made the other telling contribution, registering 13 points in a flawless display of goal-kicking. The 14,000-plus crowd were not amused by his decision to take the penalty points as Leicester's midfield

but as the favourite son of Melrose pointed out later, even Barbarians recognise a main chance when they see one. Leicester might well have

green outside-half from the Scot- in keeping with the occasion -

notched a victory had their frontline internationals stayed the stumbled offside six minutes course but Johnson and Neil

Proudfoot boost for Scotland

SCOTLAND'S HOPES of a successful Five Nations campaign received a boost yesterday as the prop Matt Proudingt prepared to return to competitive rugby following a neck injury. The front row man is hoping to turn out for Melrose seconds this weekeod after three months on the sidelines.

His return to full fitness be- sad to lose a player like Tom. But fore the first Five Nations game I understand he is unhappy and with Wales on 6 February would

be a boost for the selectors. The Sale winger Tom Beim, who played for England on last summer's Down Under tour, has been put on the transfer list at his own request. Their coach. John Mitchell, said: "It will be

we have agreed to his request." Beim is out injured but his left wing spot has been filled by Steve Handley, who has scored four tries in his last three (eague games and is rated as one of the hottest young properties in the English game.

minutes and Richard Cockerill was withdrawn at half-time. Most damagingly of all. Leon Lloyd, who looked a handful on the left wing, left after 26 minutes. "He got a bit of a bump," said Richards, whose diagnostic skills are unlikely to bring about

حكدًا من الأصل

medical science. In all seriousness, Lloyd looked sharp enough to warrant the once-over from Clive Woodward. The England coach is probably loath to watch any more wings, having chosen 12 of them in 16 months, but anyone quick enough to give as sharp an opponent as Derek Stark the run-around must have something going for him. Lloyd created an opening try for Back on nine minutes before

Craig Chalmers, that ever- from time-apparently it was not Back were both gone inside 30 finishing beautifully himself five minutes later and Leicester were nowhere near as threatening in his absence. Leicester: Tries Back, Lloyd, Joine, Srimpson, Conversions Stimpson 2, Bar-barlans: Tries Evans, Miller, Martin,

Gimes, Machacek, Conversions Chalmers S, Penalty Chalmers. LEICESTER: T Stimpson: C Joiner, 5 Pot-ter, J Srusir, L Lloyd (M Horak, 26), G Mur-phy (A Goode, h-ti, A Healey J) Hamilton, h-t): D Jelkey (P Freshwarer, 64(, R Cock-erill (D Wesr, h-r), G Roventree, M John-son (capt; R Huniell, 26), N Fletcher, O Wingham, W Johnson, N Back (L Moody, 16). a 21st century revolution in

Sampras' put-down for the **Davis Cup**

BY JOHN ROBERTS

PETE SAMPRAS will not play for the United States against Britain in the first round of the Davis Cup World Group at Birmingham's National Indoor Arena next Easter (2 to 4 April). The world No 1 has told the United States captaio, Tom Gullikson, that his quest for individual honours comes before playing for his country.

Winning the Slams and staying No 1, that's my priority:"Sampras said in an interview with the New York Times, "and I feel if I try toplay Davis Cup. those other things will be in jeopardy. I'm in a special situation here with these records, and I hope people can understand that. though I know some won't."

Sampras, world No 1 for a record six seasons, has woo 11 Grand Slam singles titles, one short of the record held by the Australian Roy Emerson. The 27-year-old Californian, a member of victorious Davis Cup teams in 1992 and 1995, declared himself unavailable this year when the Americans were beaten in the semi-finals by Italy, 4-1, in Milwaukee.

Andre Agassi also missed the Italy match because it clashed with his annual charity show in Las Vegas. Agassi has been at odds with the United Tennis Association, hut it is hoped that a change of administration will persuade him to play in Birmingham. In Sampras's absence. Agassi and Todd Martin may provide the opposition for Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski in the singles.

Sampras has traced some of his past injury problems to Davis Cup matches. He has also been critical of a perceived lack of interest in the tournament among Americans, and was particularly disappointed with the response to his courageous display in the 1995 final against Russia in Moscow.

Britain last played the United States in the 1978 final in California, John McEnroe making his debut in a 4-1 victory for the bome nation. The original Davis Cup match was hetween the United States and the British Isles in Boston in 1900. Samoras has been feeling some heat to play because of the historical context of the match in Birmingham

The United States will mark the Davis Cup centenary with a match in Boston in July, whether they beat Britain and meet Australia or Zimbabwe in the second round, or are involved in a tie to avoid a relegation play-off.

Sampras said he would not play in the first round merely to help the Americans reach the second. "I can't commit to something unless I'm going to finish what I start." he told the New York Times.

When the aeroplane comes in

A batch of Australian imports are now in place for Gateshead's Super League debut. By **Dave Hadfield**

1T WAS not so much a case of Club Championship 18 months when the boat comes in as when the plane puts down for the North-east's youngest sporting franchise.

Gateshead Tbunder's first hatch of players from Australia. their assorted wives, children and girlfriends, flew into Newcastle Airport yesterday to start preparing for the newly born cluh's first season in Super

"I'm starting to feel like we've got a team now," said Gateshead's chief executive. Shane Richardson, as he watched the new arrivals assemble at the cluh's base at some football matches and -Slaydon's rugby union ground. make ourselves part of the They look like they could play community that way. Everya game now."

That will not be required of this first rumble of the Thunder in earnest on Monday, after a from Down Under until the second tranche of players flies Super League season kicks off in from Australia to join their would have to look overseas," at the start of March, but the fellow-countrymen and a sprinprocess of team bonding has already begun - in mid-air, as the cluding - in what sounds like a party of 27 players and dependents travelled from Sydney, via a Welshman and a Geordie. Singapore and Amsterdam, to

Traeside. We left on Monday night after the holiday weekend and we've been getting to know each other on the flight," said Ben Sammut, a 23-year-old fullhack or hooker whose only previous visit to England was to play for Cronulla in the World

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

A pair of rookies helped the play-off-

A pair or rootes hereby the play-onbound Jacksonville Jaguars close the
regular season with an easy 21-3 vicrect vagainst the Pittsburgh Steelers
Anday night. The Jaguars quarControl of the Jaguars of the control
Taylor with or ushed for 71 yards and
Anday on as the Injury-hit Jaguars re-

or ... as the injury-hit Jaguars re-unded from successive defeats.

*A lot of us hadn't met each other before, so this has been a good start for us.We're all up for it and looking forward to it as an adventure, especially as we're launching a new club.

"Tve known Shane for a long time and the calibre of player he was talking about bringing here was a huge attraction. Looking around, he's been as good as his word.

"The fact that we're all Australian could possibly count against us with the local people. It's up to us to go out and win body likes winners."

kling of home-based players, inmusic hall joke - an Irishman,

Another of the driving forces behind the new club, Kath Hetherington, makes no apologies for launching the side with such a strong Australian con-

"Sport in this country has been so badly neglected that if you were starting up in any sport at professional level you



she said. The Thunder, particularly Richardson, an experienced administrator Down Under have certainly searched hard and productively in Australia, with the South Sydney scrumhalf, Willie Peters, perhaps their most startling acquisition.

Peters has been tipped as a future Australian Test halfback, which makes it all the more remarkable that he should have uprooted at the age of 19 to play for a new franchise in an unknown environment. der turned their arrival into a union club, with a swanky new People have said things like that about me, but you can go out the next week, have a bad game and it means nothing," he said. "I'm just excited by the opportunity to come somewhere new start from fresh and try to

make myself a name here. Players crossing the world in either direction can find themselves left to their own devices; but not Gateshead's first plane-

Rather than let them slip quietly into the country, the Thun-

promotional event, introducing them to the national and the particularly vital regional media, before packing them off in their club Rovers to their club houses, clustered near each other in an attempt to avoid any problems of isolation.

"If they settle in well, we'll succeed. If not, we won't," is the way Richardson sees it. Their base in Blaydon will be an important part of creating a sense of purpose and unity off the field. The North Two rugby

clubhouse and training facilities, both of which it needs to have used has volunteered itself as a home from home for the new club.

"We don't see them as rivals; we see them as as a complementary sport," said their chairman, Peter Stokoe. "There is bound to be some cross-fertilisation, some mutual benefit. "We tried to huild up a similar relationship with the Newcastle Falcons, but they weren't very interested and it turned out to be all one The Falcons have pulled

back from their grand amhitions south of the Tyne, but Stokoe, despite his rugby unioo background, is sanguine about the Thunder succeeding where they failed. "With all due respect to what Newcastle tried to do, these are professional people," he said as Richardson, Hetherington and their coach Shaun McRae, got their newcomers organised. "That's the difference."

SKIING

Hermann Maier, the double Olympic gold medallist, led an Austrian sweep of eight of the top 10 places yesterday for his first World Cup downhill win of the season. Switzerland's Bruno Kernen was the highest placed one-Austrian in seventh.

est placed non-Austrian, in seventh,

two seconds behind Maier. The Austrians set a record in the last race

before Christmas with the top nine

SPORTING DIGEST

have been installed at the spot when he fell.

SWIMMING Lithuania's Giedu Rafanavicius has been banned for four years, while two South American water polo players received three-month suspensions for drug violations. Fina, the sport's world governing body, said Rafanavicius had tested pos-itive for a steroid, metandlenone. The water polo players Wilson Caldeira, of Brazil, and Claudio Reginato, of Chile, were suspended for three months by the South American association for positive drug tests during last April's South American Championships in

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Ounder Utd v Rangers [7 45]

Hearts v Dunder (6.00)

SMIRHOFF RISH LEAGUE Premier Divisions Baltymens v Crusaders (7.30): Portadown v Coleraine [7.45].

FAI HARP LAGER LEAGUE Cup Float Second Leg: Cork City v Shamrock Rovers [1.30]. FOOTBALL

PONTINS LEAGUE CUP Group One: Harde-pool v Middlesbrough (? 00) Group Three: Tranmere v Man City (? 15) OTHER SPORTS

BASKETBALL: Uni-ball Trophy Group A. Lekester v Derby [8.0] ICE HOCKEY: Sekonda Superleague: Man-chester v Newcaste [7.0]. DARTS: Skol PDC World Championship (at Circus Tavern, Purfleet).

47

Midlands and North in form

MIDLANDS. WITH a 1-0 win against South on the opening day of the Women's Under-21 Regional Tournament at Milton Keynes yesterday, gave notice of their intent to bold on to their title while the North overcame West opposition to win 4-1.

The opening game between South and Midlands featured brilliant goalkeeping, appalling

HOCKEY BY BILL COLWILL

Clifton's Beth Storry had a dream game in the South goal. Time and time again she cleared her lines as the Midlands descended in their mass-

into their stride, with Loughborough's Laura Hughes doing the prompting but it was not until the 15th minute and their 10th penalty corner that their captain, Sally Wright, picked up

a rebound to score. The second game started with North opening the scoring inside four minutes. Two goals inside two minutes midway through the second half con-

Last Temp Forecast

60

PLAY-OFF SCHEDULE: AFC: Saturday: Mamr v Buffalo. Sunday: Jacksonville v New England. NFC: Saturday: Dallas v Auzona. Sunday: San Flancisco v Green

henya has won a sponsorship deal from the local beer firm. Kenya Brewenes, allowing the national team to turn professional before the Id Cup in England next year. The Laya Cricker Association said part the money will be used to pay salaries for the 21 players and the training staff, including the West Indian coach, Alvin Kallicharan.

SKOL POC WORLD DARTS CHAMPI-NASHIP (Circus Tavern, Purfleer(: First round: H Robinson (Eng) bt 5 Downs (US)

Aston Villa v Hull

3 Bolton v Wolverhampton...

s aradford v Grimsby

BRITISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP (Paragon Hotel, London): Men, third round: P Markey (Eng) bt M Freeman (Eng) 3-0; R Coggins (Eng) br C Solly (Eng) 3-1; D Etheringron (Eng) br C Solly (Eng) 3-1; T Hankey (Eng) br A Fordham (Eng) 3-2; T Hankey (Eng) br A Fordham (Eng) 3-2; Seafrey (Mai) br C Monk (Eng) 3-2; L Palrieyman (Eng) br M Barmad (Eng) 3-1. Owarter-finals: Manley br Coggins 2-0; Hankey br Ethenngton 2-1; Barneveld br Wilddows 2-1; Palfreyman br Palfrey 2-1; Seaf-finals: Manley br Hankey 2-0; Barneveld br Palfreyman 2-0; Final: Barneveld br Manley 2-0. Women, quarter-finals: T Guillner (Eng) br C Howar (Eng) 3-0; X Smith (Eng) br C Howar (Eng) 3-0; X Smith (Eng) br C Howar (Eng) 3-0; X Smith (Eng) br M Surron (Eng) 3-0. T Whight (Eng) br A Jones (Eng) 3-2; Seami-finals: Guillner bt Smith 3-2; Wright bt Duffy 3-0. Finalt: Guillner bt Smith 3-2; Wright bt Duffy 3-0. BRITISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

NRE: Butfalo 4 New Jersey 7: Ottows 2 Ana-hem 2 (ct); Washington 5 Boston 1: De-tern 4 5t Louis 4 (ct); Florida 5 NY Islanders 1; Dallas 7 Nashville 0; Phoentx 2 Los Angeles 4: San Jose 1 Philadelphia 1 (ct).

SCOTTISH LEAGUE Second Division: Postponed: Arbicarti v Forlar. stponed: Arbicam y Foriar. IRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE First Divi-n: Postponed: Dungamon Swifts y Ban-

ICE HOCKEY EASTERN CONFERENCE NORTHEAST DIVISION

SOUTHEAST DIVISION W L T GF GA Pts16 14 5 89 84 3713 12 6 81 82 3211 18 3 70 82 258 23 3 69119 15 WESTERN CONFERENCE CENTRAL DIVISION

RUGBY UNION **CLUB MATCH: Leicester 24 Barbanans**

SQUASH PSA WORLD RANKINGS: 1 P Nicol | Sco]: 2 J Power (Can): 3 A Barada | Egy): 4 P Johnson (Eng): 5 O Jenson (Aus): 6 M Heath (Sco): 7 R Eyles (Aus): 8 A Gough (Wall: 9 5 Parke | Eng): 10 A Hill (Aus). Selected: 12 C Walker(Eng): 14 D Ryan (Ire). 17 O Evans (Wall: 1a M Cairns (Eng).

Australis Set a Tector in the East Tack Defore Christmas with the top nine places in a men's super giant slalom, WORLD CUP {Bormio, It}: Men's downhill, 1 H Maier (Aut) 1min 54.51sec: 2 F Strool [Aur) 1:55.21: 3 5 Eberharter (Aur) 1:55.79: 4 H Knauss (Aut) 1:55.99: 6 H Trink! (Aut) 1:55.79: 4 H Knauss (Swit) 1:56.50: 8 C Greber (Swit) 1:56.50: 8 C Greber (Swit) 1:56.63: 9 Il Cuche (Swit) 1:56.66: 10 A Schifferer (Aut) 1:56.69. Downhill standings: 1 L Kijs (Nor) 280pts: 2 Maier 210: 3 Werner 185; 4 K Ghedina (It) 162: 5 L Carraneo (It) 120: 6 Strool) 116: 7= Schifferer, Knauss 108: 9 Eberharter 103; 10 K A Aamodt (Nor) 90 Overall standings: 1 Maler 640pts: 2 Kjus 537: 3 Eberharter 513: 4 C Mayer (Aut) 462: 5 Aamodr 425. 6 Knauss 289: 7 Schifferer 280: 8 Werner 243; 9 T Stangassinger | Auri 216; 10 M Von Gruenigen (Swit) 210.

Jean-Luc Cretler, the French down

hill Olympic champion, is to sue the organisers of a World Cup downhill in Val Gardena after a bad crash put an end to his season earlier this month. Cretier crashed shortly be-fore a turn and ended up off the piste in rocks and bushes. Cretier, who tore his knee Ilgaments in the crash, broke a hand and had bruises to the face, said safety nets should

TODAY'S NUMBER

The record number of ex-European League American Football players who are now rostered by teams who have qualified for the NFL play-offs in the United States.

incredible 23 penalty corners penalty corner drill and in-The Midlands were quickly firmed North's domination. comprehensible umpiring.

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7 Bury v Stockport 8 Cardiff v Yeovil a Coventry y Macclesfield..... 29 Sumley v Walsali 10 Crewe v Oxford Litd ... 11 Rushden & O'monds v Leeds...... 14 Newcastle v Crystal Palace

WEEKEND POOLS FORECAST 25 West Ham v 5wansca 26 Wimbledon v Man City 27 Wrexham v Scunthorpe

28 Plymouth v Derby Not on coupon: Oldham v Chelsea. Standay: Man Utd v Middlesbrough: Port Vale v Liverpool: "Sheff Wed v Norwich. NATIONWIDE LEAGUE SECOND DIVISION

31 Gillingham v 8 lackpool1 32 Reading v Chesterfield1 Not on coupons: Wycombe v York. NATIONWIDE LEAGUE

THIRD DIVISION 33 Chester v Southend 34 Hartiepool v Cambridge Utd 35 Sniewsbury v Halifax2

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE

37 Dundee v Dundee Urd. 38 Duntermline v Hearts ... 39 St Johnstone v Aberdeen... Senday: Rangers v Celtic.

SCOTTISH LEAGUE

FIRST DIVISION

41 Falkirk v Altorie 42 Greenock Morzon v 5t Mirren 43 Hibernian v Raizh ... Scottish Cup second round: Civil Serwice v Albion: Dalbeattie v East Stirling: Forfar v East Fife; Hunry v Peterhead, In-

verness Cally Livingston; Keith v Airectin;

Montrose v Stirling, Partick v Cowdenbeath;

Queen of South v Ross County: Oueen's

Park v Clachnaruddin: Spartans v Clyde:

FOOTBALL CONFERENCE 45 Dover v Weiling46 Hayes v Farnborough 48 Hereford v Kudderminster 49 Morecambe v Northwich. Not on coupons; Leek Town v Doncast-cr; Woking v Kingstonian. TEN HOMES: Aston Villa v Hull; Totten-ham v Warford; West Ham v Swansea: Ayr

Raith: Cheirenham v Telford: Dovet v Welling: Hayes v Farnborough: Hereford v Kidderminsrer FIVE AWAYS: Lincoln v Sunderland

FOUR DRAWS: Colchester v Luton: Torquay v 8 righton: Dunfermline v Hearts; Greenock Morton v 5t Mirren. Pools forecast selections by Ian Davles From near week, to give readers an ex-tra day to complete their coupons, the forecast will be published on Tuesdays.

SAMPRAS SNUBS DAVIS CUP P19 • WARD STRIKES IT RICH P18

Fourth Test: Headley's six-wicket salvo tears the heart out of Australia before Gough supplies the coup de grace

England's extraordinary victory 112

IT HAS taken nearly 16 days of BY DEREK PRINGLE Test cricket for England to win a session, but when they did it was decisive. They now go to Sydney knowing one more win will level a series few gave them hope of drawing when they arrived here in October.

Setting Australia 175 to win. after the tourists had been bowled out for 244 in their second innings, it might have been a glorious failure as the home de cruised to 130 for 3. But England's bowlers had other ideas. Pushing themselves to the point of exhaustion, in a final session that lasted four hours. they dismissed Australia for 162, as their opponents choked on a mixture of complacency and bad memories.

If one man could be singled out it was Dean Headley, who took 6 for 60. Headley came on at the Southern end at 5.480m and bowled until the end. The duration of the spell – 105 minutes – was impressive, and the impact should last even longer. Australia go into the last Test with the Ashes safe and a 2-1 lead, but they also know they are no longer indomitable.

England's record at the MCG is far superior to that on other Australian grounds, and there were similar resonances this time to England's victory here in 1982, when the winning margin was three runs, Indeed, since the Ashes have been contested Australia have won 25 Tests here to England's 19, a fair proportion for an away team.

When the glorious moment came at 7.33pm, 14 minutes after Steve Waugh had insisted on taking the extra half-hour, the shadows were longer than the Australian faces.

Victory is not commonplace in England's repertoire, but they have an aptitude for winning the close ones, something lost to England at the Oval 18 months ago, chasing less, and a memory must have surfaced.

Mind you, England had to get close first, and you could tell by the emotion that swept across the MCG when Darren Gough's toe-crusher caught the last man, Glenn McGrath, stone dead that this success was a lottery win not a certainty.

series, to scupper him here with a barrage of bouncers and "I thought 175 would be competitive," said Alec Stewart latter cost him a A\$2,500 (£900) afterwards. "In the past Australia have slipped up chasing totals like that." fine from the match referee,

Ironically, Stewart had want-

England 270 & 244 Australia 340 & 162 England win by 12 runs

in Melbourne

ed to come off when the extra half-hour became available to him. "Sure I was trying it on a little," he admitted. "With tea being taken early, it was a long session and I felt our bowlers were tired. But, seriously, if teams have to make up for time lost to rain the length of

session needs to be looked at. "I was pleased with the fight we showed. Dean Headley's was a magnificent effort along with Darren Gough's and Alan Mullally's. I was about to take Dean off on several occasions, but he kept battling. Our aim is to square the series and go home 2-2, not 3-1."

Well though Mulially bowled

in taking two key Aussie wick-

ets. it was his batting, an en-

tertaining 16, that took the

aerial route, that proved crucial.

made five ducks in the series,

one away from equalling the

record set by Alan Hurst. Mc-

Grath tried, as he has done all

verbals, though this time the

John Reid.

Before this innings he had

ably the superb catch taken by Mark Ramprakash to dismiss Justin Langer. The left-hander, who had already taken a heavy toll of his Middlesex team-mate Angus Fraser, was on 30 when he tried to do the same to Mullally.

one key moment, it was prob-

Pulling the lanky fast bowler, after he had dropped a delivery a fraction short, Langer could only laugh in disbelief as Ramprakash, fielding alongside the square-leg umpire, flung himself scrum-half-like to take a miraculous catch with his right hand.

People talk about moments that inspire change. Well, this was one that transformed England's sweaty toilers into blinkered believers and hard graft into sweet success.

"Ramps' catch was the thing that fired them up," said Australia's captain, Mark Taylor.

10.4-20-2, France 4-0-23-0 (one spell each).
Progress: Fourts stay: 50 in 68 mms, 14
overs, 100 in 129 mms, 26.1 overs, 150 in
215 mms, 42 overs, England won at 7.32pm.
Umphress: S A Euckstor and D J Harper TV
Replay Umphres: G Y Morrow, Match
Referent J R Red,

there and hitting the ball."

one on the ground was con-

vinced that that was the game.

But just as we were thinking

what we might do tonight, a bril-

the MCG.

ins. 33 balls. 1 fc

MELBOURNE SCOREBOARD

liant catch, a poor shot and we're under pressure. Often 15 or 20 minutes is all it takes to change a Test."

Whether or not England are disciples of that particular Andy Warhol-ism, there is no escaping the fact that, until Headley removed Mark Waugh for 43, they were the outsiders.

Until that moment Waugh had looked untroubled. But Headley, after an early savaging from Michael Slater, bowled with real gusto and Waugh's dismissal, which was well taken by Graeme Hick at second slip, was made to look more slovenly than it really was.

With Waugh gone, Headley hit the motherlode, wreaking bavoc among Australia's middle order. In 14 balls, he took 4 for 4, including Darren Lehmann and Ian Healy, whose gambling spirit fell flat as he scythed to second slip.

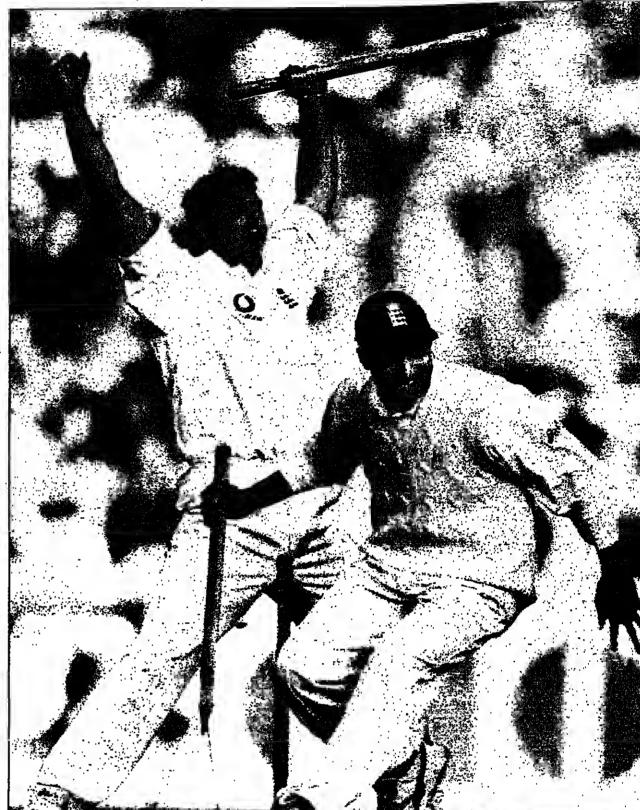
It was easy to forget the work achieved earlier in the day hy the England hatsmen. With runs a priority, Hick, Stewart, and Nasser Hussain all made half-centuries. Hick can feel gratified that one of his efforts was at the forefront of victory instead of huried in a defeat.

Australia are never beaten until Steve Waugh has been forced to lay down his hat. But his team-mates were feeling the squeeze. Suddenly, the debutant Matthew Nicholson, having added 21 with Waugh, edged Headley behind for 9. But Waugh made the error of allowing his new partner, MacGill, to take the strike. It was a mistake, with the ball swinging Irish and England with their tails up.

In the space of three balls, Gough cleaned up both MacGill and McGrath to leave Waugh stranded for the second time in the match. The Waugh zone *i* not have been breac "Our attitude over the last two but that did not prevent the hours was bad. We batted as if Barmy Army from invading, it was just a matter of going out and they were still partying well into the wee hours.

Many believe that Taylor, For once, the pitch, with barely three days of usage, who won the toss and put England in to bat, had made a could not be blamed. What major error. Since 1963, no could, was the widespread bemore than 200 had ever been lief that this England side could made by a team batting last at not win a Test on a silver platter let alone one at the mecca Taylor added: "There's no of Australian cricket. doubt that, at 130 for 3, every-

In the end, with one day left unplayed, it was quite simply an extraordinary Test match, that England ended up winning,



Darren Gough (left) and Mark Butcher grab mementoes after England's famous Test victory

The man who inspired Eng-

land's greatest-ever victory

over the old enemy was not hid-

ing his feelings either. "It was

one of the great finishes," Ian

Botham, the all-rounder who

turned around the Headingley

Test in 1981, said. "Our sup-

porters have had a hard time

and taken a lot of stick. What

a 24 hours it will be for them.

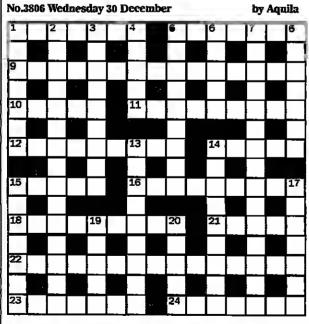
Any win against Australia is

And the legendary Yorkshire

The last word goes to the

THE WEDNESDAY CROSSWORD

Yet if the match turned on



Leads away sailor with

pipes (7) Material of knitted ties, presented to cricketer Her diminutive females

automatically so upset? 10 Crack number in exclusive setting (5) 11 See first at Bath. having 1 girth adjusted? it's a

12 Slow! Vehicle reversing in front of common (9) Kind of art-work in Copenhagen recently (5) 4

Air of gravity in dreadful 16 Pairs off after 7? (5-4) 18 Alice Hunt drunk, under the table (9)

W

W

21 How poet might supply last university with Head of English (5) 22 Cowboy ordering pre-marital tonic (15) Can take a seat free,

then bale out (7)

his back to the wall? (7) Charts for finding seasalt? (7)

Like a Lee-Enfield? Yes and no (6-9) Escaroles in this stew? Several thousand held within WW1 battle area

Gas principle of young man, as well turned-out

What's-his-name, say, the revolt leader? (5) Union members coerced in these assemblies?

Call English openers to take championship (7) Clear leaders in economy, perhaps, with this vehicle (9)

14 Reg nicely improved with the syrupy stuff (9) 15 A striking bar-counter, we hear, in the jazz club One who takes coat

from Lincoln, for example (7) Mount Sinai's mineral in pencils? (5) Scottish landowner died at place of seclusion (5)

'Knackered ... but the boys did it'

night as it prepared to roll out of Melbourne and on to Sydney for the final Test of an Ashes series suddenly brought to life by yesterday's surprise outcome. The players themselves, for

so long down in the mouth after a trip Down Under which had threatened to bury England's cricket reputation even deeper in the eyes of the world, were suddenly upbeat about the prospect of squaring the series even though Australia will retain the urn itself thanks to their victory in Adelaide.

"We played with so much heart. We were knackered hut fortunately [Dean] Headley and [Darren] Gough did it for us. These boys showed what we can do. The Ashes have gone unfortunately but we have won one of the last two Tests. Now we go on to Sydney aiming to win that one to square the series," the England captain, Alec Stewart, whose first innings century helped set up the victory, said.

And Darren Gough, one of the bowling heroes with seven wickets in the match, added: "We'll enjoy the win because it's been a great effort. We've proved in this game that we can play cricket, we just need to do it more often. Hopefully this is just the start. I'm really pleased for Dean [Headley] because he bowled hrilliantly in the first innings with great character and heart and didn't get his re-

David Lloyd, the England coach who has said he plans to quit after next summer's World Cup; was also in buoyant mood.

EVERYONE WAS jumping on BY NICK RIPPINGTON the England bandwagon last

"It's a topsy-turvy world and a topsy-turvy game. The four hours in that final session were tough, hut the adrenalin was flowing and we were taking wickets. That put us on top," he

If England's stunning victory had a catalyst it was the remarkable catch by Mark Ramprakash that removed Justin Langer. "I enjoyed the

catch. It was great, something home and at the 100,000-caspecial. I was so happy to cling on to it. I missed a few earlier in the series and this made up for it," the Middlesex middleorder hatsman said. "We have had a lot of stick since we came here and rightly so because we haven't played well. But this shows people in Australia that we can play a bit. It has proved

a few people wrong." But if the win came as a

pacity MCG, one man said that be expected it. The England and Wales Cricket Board chairman, Lord MacLaurin, arrived in time to see his side get off the mark in the series, then said: "They always win for me. Tve just turned up for the last two Tests and they have done it for me. That was really something. It showed guts and a certain

mental toughness. Great stuff

beautiful. When you beat them shock to people watching back Now we'll square it at Sydney." at the MCG it's even more beautiful." Watching back home, the former England captain and exchairman of selectors, Ted Dexter, was sharing in the euphoria "I got up at 6am to "." watch it and it was tremendous entertainment. Remember that Mark Taylor put us in, which is always a danger batting last, but they got their comeuppance this time," he said. and England fast bowler Fred Trueman was as blunt as ever. "I'm a very happy man – a very, very happy man. Happy New Year" he said. Australian captain, Mark Taylor, who was a bit more reserved in his judgment of the merits of England's performance, preferring to reflect on his own team's substandard effort.

Dean Headley leads a triumphant England team off the MCG yesterday Allsport

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"I thought we'd won it but we got a bit lazy. No one made a big enough score. The last hour was real nip and tuck but England came back. We thought the best chance for us to win it was to stay on and take the extra half hour. But that's the way it goes," he said.

Henry Blofeld, page 16

MESDAYREVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION

Giant Haystacks is dead. Long live wrestling,

BY JACK O'SULLIVAN

hen Dave "Iron Duke" Lynch attended the funeral of Giant Haystacks earlier this month, many at the Salford graveside thought they had come to hury British wrestling, cropped blond hair, blue eyes, muscular Haystacks, a hrute of a figure standing nearly seven feet tall and weighing in at almost 50 stone, had been the bad man of the ring. During the sport's heyday in the Seventies, stars such as himself could pull in more viewers than Coronation Street and even, on one occasion, the FA Cup Final. Just a year before, the old-timers had hid a similar farewell to Big Daddy, Haystacks' great rival, the good guy in this pantomime. He was the wrestler whom the kids and the grannies loved to watch as be hounced opponents off his vast stomach.

The contrast at the funeral between past and present could not have been clearer. "We loved Giant Haystacks," recalls Lynch, "but here was this big, ugly fella being lowered down in this huge coffin by three of his sons. They were normal, good-looking lads about six foot tall. They could have been male models. Although no-one said it, everyone felt this was the end of an era."

The mourners were probably right. The death of traditional British wrestling, which many always suspected to be a thinly disguised joke, has been lingering for a decade, ever since it was dropped from its Saturday afternoon slot on ITV just before the football results. The days when Kent Walton's screaming commentary created near hysteria in the nation's living rooms are long over - today, the only star left is Pat Roche, who as "Bomber", the wrestler in Auf Wiedersehen, Pet, was fortunate in enjoying a television persona denied to his contemporaries starved of screen exposure.

Nevertheless, out of the current demise is aringing an extraordinary revival. Britisb wrestling looks set to be the latest craze. Partly the opportunity is there because the appetite for wrestling remains a relatively young one. Ask anyone between the ages of 20 and 45 about wrestling and, more than likely, their eyes will light up with nostalgia for a sport which fascinated many children of all classes, and then just seemed to disappear.

Typically, the names of Mick MacManus (a great grunter) and Kendo Nagasaki (the rather frightening man in the nask) still trip off the tongue. hen come happy thoughts of moves such as the Boston Crab and Half Nelson, which were practised repeatedly on younger sihlings and which occupy the same memory space as Dr Who and Blue Peter. It is a space that remains unfilled in middle age, the sanitised Gladiators being a If wrestling takes off again in 1999, it will also be

The late Giant Haystacks, top, and right, new boy Phil Powers

Andrew Buurn Andrew Buurman

in the ring, you don't find this flying fighter embroiled in those boring battles of the Titans, in which two huge old blokes slugged it out, sitting on top of one another, grunting. Oh no. Dressed in red and yellow leotard and boots, plus tasselled arms and legs, Knight is boyish and athletic, but with a ruthless streak. "I specialise in what I call the 'Knight driver'." he

because of new, amhitious talent, which can

barely hide its cootempt for the old-timers. Men

such as Steve Knight, whose style and youth-

ful good looks make him widely hipped for

stardom as the David Beckham of the new

era. He is just 23, 14 stone and 5ft10 tall. His

physique and a tan fresh from Tenerife com-

bine to make him look very different from the

great hulking wrestlers of the Seventies. More

like Haystacks' sons than the giant himself. And,

says. "I pick a bloke up and put him on to my shoulders. Then I throw him off, face first, oo to the floor in what is called a 'power bomb'. The match always ends when that comes off."

Knight also knows how to talk about the sport and inspire an audience. There is, he says, much more skill and danger involved in the new style of wrestling. "To get yourself in with the crowd, it's no longer good enough just to bounce someone off your stomach. You have to go up on to the rope, jump from the top and backflip on to the concrete outside the ring, hopefully landing on your opponent. Hopefully," he says. This is dangerous work. 'Injuries? I've had plenty. I've hroken an-

kles, arms, my nose three times and six of my fingers. But this is the type of thing you have to do if you are going to grab attention today." If the sport moves in the direction

ate heroes of meo like him, admired by young male bodybuilders and salivated over hy young women, The change may even be welcomed hy wrestling's grannies, who in the old days could be spotted screaming at the ringside like the tricoteuses of the French Revolution, who sat knitting as the guillotine claimed another victim.

Steve Knight has been studying Japanese professional wrestling (different from sumo), which is the most successful in the world and much admired for its skill. But be has also watched as the televised American sport, with its razzmatazz and theatre, has made British wrestling look as dated as if Accrington Stanley were fielded to play Alex Ferguson's Manchester United.

He is not the only one with an eye on the future. A new breed of promoter promises to transform the way the sport is marketed. In October, the newly formed, British-based Ultimate Wrestling Alliance held its first event. Everyone in the husiness says that the show, beld at a country club in Epping Forest, east of London, was a fresb departure from the sad events that pass for wrestling contests in Britain's windswept holiday camps.

There were pyrotechnics, lasers, and female models lavishly draped over the wrestlers. Thundering music announced their entry, contributing to a glamorous atmosphere which is commonplace for wrestling events in the States. It was a far cry from the days when a promoter put a few ads in the paper and waited for the crowds to turn up.

Most important, says Paul Martin, one of the partners in UWA, is that television cameras return to the British wrestling scene in February. TV is the oxygen of which the sport has been so deprived for a decade. The next show at London's Crystal Palace will be shown on the cable channel Live TV, and a deal for further promotions is under negotiation with Sky TV.
Paul Martin confesses

that he knows little about wrestling. But given the sport's parlous state he, prohably rightly, regards that particular lack of knowledge as a strength. Martin comes from the world of

concert promotion.

He knows exactly what is needed to attract the new audience that wrestling needs the young men and women who like to attend live gigs. Additionally his husiness partner, Dan Berlinka, an American TV executive who

spent four years working with the US World Wrestling Federation, is highly regarded and is also reckoned to know what turns an audience oo to wrestling.

The deal is that the revival will use an Ameri-

can-style hrash presentation. British wrestling will he distinctive hecause it will combine this Continued on page 2



eaders and comment

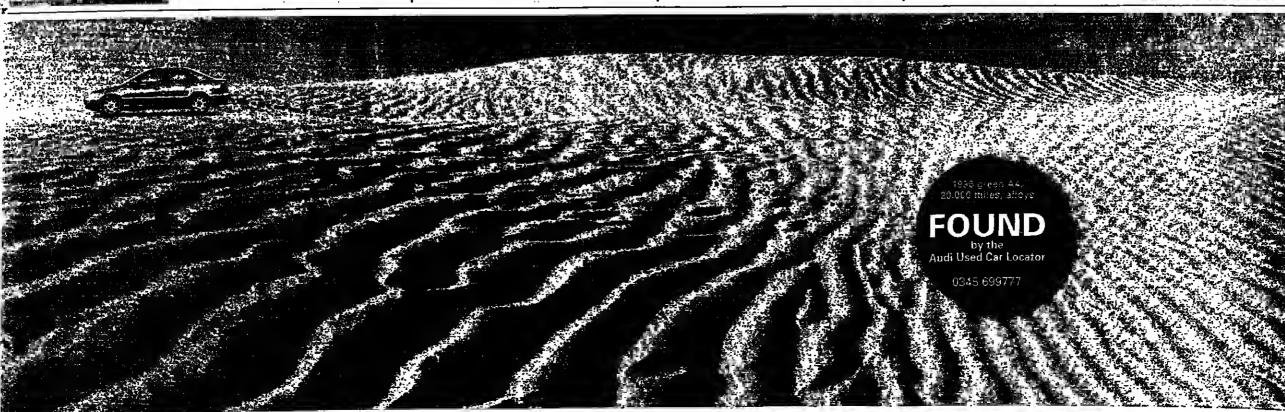
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Labour scandals

Sir. Peter Mandelson's resignation is a refreshing development for a Labour Party which is bedevilled and politically corrupted by the myth of modernisation.

Regardless of what degree of financial or political impropriety occurred, or of what further revelations on ensue, the common perception is that it is unlikely that many of Mandelson's Hartlepool Labour-voting constituents could obtain a loan of £340,000; hence his reticence at the time.

However, the main issue is that this transaction and previous scandals such as the Formula One affair all epitomise how the New Labour "election-winning" concept is nothing but a capitulation to the demands of the captains of industry and finance, and to free-market fundamentalism. It reveals that the small clique of business and image conscious New Labour executives who administer the show are unrepresentative of Labour voters and the Labour movement as a whole. As long as they remain at the helm, "misjudgements" like this will be just as endemic in this government as they were in the last.

Tony Blair has given the assurance that although his key modernising ideologue has gone, Mandelson's spectre will remain in New Labour policy. Hopefully though, his departure along with worsening economic problems may start a momentum to reassert Labour on the left of the political spectrum, thus ending this wretched hi-partisian consensus politics which inhibits real arguments and policy alternatives. NICK VINEHILL Snettisham, Norfolk

Sir. I am still waiting for someone to explain what Peter Mandelson has actually done wrong (save any possible irregularities in his mortgage application).

The only possible problem with the Robinson loan is an alleged potential conflict of interest. The DTI Permanent Secretary sought to insulate his Secretary of State from the Robinson inquiry on the grounds that he was a fellow minister. So there is already deemed to be a conflict of interest where fellow ministers are concerned.

There is meant to be. These people are in the same party. They are close friends (or at least meant to he). They are colleagues on the same side in the total war that constitutes adversarial political life. There is open loyalty between fellow ministers which makes impartiality not only improbable hut impossible. It is not expected to be otherwise. They dine in each other's homes, go on holiday together. We should be amazed if they did not lend each other

money, from time to time, as well. Had the minister borrowed money from anyone other than a fellow minister (or a member of his own family) then the need to declare it would be understandable. As it is, we would not be in the least enlightened by disclosure of loans between senior politicians of the same party. To

Sir: To comply with the convention for naming political scandals, should not the Mandelson affair be called Nottinghillgate? ALEXANDER KLEANTHOUS Rickmansworth, Hertfordhsire

think otherwise would be naive.

Rail disasters

Sir: While Richard Branson navigated his way through a crisis in the ether above China, his passengers on the 21.30 from Euston to Wolverhampton were also trying to make their way home.

We were heavily delayed outside Bletchley hecause of a fire and brake failure, but the Virgin guard assured us that buses and taxis would be waiting at Milton Keynes

We arrived at Milton Keynes at about 2am. It was freezing, and no buses were in sight. The 300 passengers from the train were left to fight with each other and

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Panto Season No 3: Underneath the auditorium of the Northcott Theatre in Exeter, Bow Belle the fairy (Amanda Horlock) takes a break during the first dress rehearsal of 'Dick Whittington'

drunken night-clubbers for taxis. Our taxi driver said his firm would be charging Virgin approximately £200 for the return journey to Wolverhampton, I estimate that the taxi hill alone will cost £15,000 to £20,000, a sum which will only escalate with refunds and

demands for compensation.

While Branson amuses himself by bringing Phineas Fogg to life, the thousands of people who regularly have to travel by train in Britain suffer the harsh reality of his management of our railways. Will the Government take heedallowing the music man to take over our railways has been a disaster. Dr PATRICIA MINES

Sir: Your Outlook column of 16 December ("Short-changed on Railtrack sale") criticised the National Audit Office report on the privatisation of Railtrack for suggesting that it might have been possible to sell shares in the company in stages rather than all at once. Yet the report demonstrates that this could have been possible.

Top investors in the company

confirmed that they had no fundamental objection to participating in a partial share sale. Railtrack shares were clearly attractive to institutions in that they bid for 10 times as many as were available. And where sales have been done in stages, final proceeds have nearly always been higher: in 1991 when National Power and PowerGen were floated ahead of a General Election, and in the face of political opposition, the department was advised not to sell in stages but did so because it could not be sure of getting full value from the initial price. Ultimately, the shares were sold in two tranches, at an additional benefit of £2.3bn to the taxpayer. GABRIELLE COHEN Notional Audit Office

Sir: Travel by train is longer possible for anyone who has to arrive by a definite time. Over the

London SW1

Christmas period travel by rail has been impossible. Close the whole lot, declare a national void day and then start again under completely new management with no compensation, Identify every last Tory involved in privatisation, surcharge them, then imprison them when they cannot pay. IAN CAMPBELL Borth, Dyfed

After Saddam

Sir: David Aaronovitch ("Unfortunately, there really was no alternative to the bombing", 22 December) and I A Shapiro (letter. 22 December) say that there is no alternative to bombing Iraq. This is not rue. The alternative is to remove Saddam and his regime once and for ever.

The US and Britain should have spent 10 per cent of the bombing cost on Iraqi opposition groups to encourage them to unite to help overthrow Saddam and establish a democratic government.

Bomhing Iraq will not harm Saddam, it will only bring misery to the Iraqi people. Saddam will rebuild his arms supplies and his military power, and will continue to do so for years to come. This will also result in more bombings and additional suffering for the Iraqi

Sir: Anna Freeman (letter, 26

December) is right to deplore

Bethlehem. It should be noted

that the "wise men" who came

"from the east" said they had

seen the star "in the east" and

had followed it. In that case

they were heading not for

Bethlehem, bnt Japan.

Sir: The use of the term

depressing ignorance of

"British" in Radio 4's "British

personality of the milleunium"

(report, 29 December) shows a

MAURICE HILL

Alicante, Spain

the continuing analysis of

myths about the star of

people. By this bombing, have we really achieved anything other than the slaughter of innocent Iraqi lives? The only way to remove the weapons of mass destruction is to remove Saddam completely, and this can only be achieved by

helping the Iraqi opposition. Lifting sanctions is an essential part of the help, because hungry people can not fight a brutal

Dr ABDUL-KHALIQ HUSSEIN

Morpeth, Northumberland

Sir. When Tony Blair and Bill Clinton talk of encouraging a new regime in Iraq, most people probably assume this means democracy. This may not be the

After the 1991 Gulf conflict. former US Defence Secretary James Schlessinger indicated that the US did not disagree with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, who did not consider democracy appropriate for Saudi Arabia; Saudi Arabia is a deeply repressive country.

The only fully-fledged democracy in the region is Israel, hardly an example Arab states would look to. Democracy itself threatens the existence of all the other regimes in the Middle East. If democracy is appropriate for Iraq, why is it not also appropriate for, Saudi Arabia.

IN BRIEF

history. In what sense can

anyone in the last 1,000 years

Union of 1707? Shakespeare

wrote about "Britain" only

Cymbeline. He would have

found the idea that he was

Sir: I was dismayed to read

that, at 29, I will soon be too old

to appreciate popular culture

twice, in King Lear and

"British" absurd.

ALAN MacCOLL

St Andrews, Fife

have been "British" before the

was a great English writer, who

or for Algeria, where it would have resulted in a fundamentalist Islamic government

If not democracy then what? The governments need to define their positions. Would the British public support an alternative regime which was not a democracy? DAVID CÖCKBURN Tounton, Somerset

Sir: George Robertson, the Secretary of State for Defence, speaking about the arrival in the Gulf next month of the aircraftcarrier HMS Invincible said: "It is a big signat we are not goir away." You report that the "floating fortress" can mount air and land attacks, and carries up to 24 aircraft and a crew of 1,200 ("Blair sends carrier to the Gulf", 21

December).

And George Orwell said, in 1984: In a physical sense war involves very small numbers of people, mostly highly trained specialists, and causes comparatively few casualties. The fighting, when there is any, takes place on the vague frontiers whose whereabouts the average man can only guess at, or round the Floating Fortresses which guard

strategic spots on the sea-lanes. "The essential act of war is

and music, as the tracks

chosen as "anthems of the

year" by Radio 1 listeners are

unlikely to mean anything to

"anyone over 30" ("Massive

Attack sees offold guard", 29

relieved to discover that most

Radiohead, Nirvana), while

some were positively vintage (REM and Madonna). So I can

delay that trip to Littlewoods

for my elasticated jeans for a

of those who made the list were

December). I needn't have

worried. Reading on, I was

about my age (Oasis,

few years. L J WRIGHT

human lives, but the products of human labour. War is a way of shattering to pieces, or pouring into the stratosphere, or sinking in the depths of the sea, materials, which might otherwise be used to make the masses too comfortable. A Floating Fortress, for example, has locked up in it the labour that would huild several hundred cargo ships. Ultimately it is scrapped as ohsolete, never having brought any material benefit to anybody, and with further enormous labours another Floating Fortress is huilt. In principle the war effort is always so planned as to eat up any surplu that might exist after meeting the bare needs of the population." Could Mr Blair have been

destruction, not necessarily of

warning ns about Mr Blair? WILLIAM F LONG Loughton, Essex

Lesson for lords

Sir. At our peril we ignore the implications of shabby leaders in the USA mentioned by Gavin Esler ("Cruise missiles won't stop the dangers facing US democracy", 19 December). Their President, their Congress and their Senate, now involved in an unseemly constitutional wrangle, are elected. They are also open to a freedom of information culture in their prurient press. Those in the UK who want an entirely elected House of Lords should reflect on that.

There are many experienced. responsible, wise citizens who will decline to stand for election to our second chamber. They will not be ambitious for public status. Their lives may well be blameless hut they and their families will not wish to enter on an election process that would lead to total invasion of their privacy by a "wolf pack" from our snide and scurrilous media. The price of service for some of the people we most need could well be too high. We would have nobody but ourselves to blame. **E A SERPELL**

Giant Haystacks is dead

Continued from page I razzmatazz with the type of skills normally seen only in Japan. So, forget Big Daddy and think of the likes of Naseem Hamed dominating the new wrestling world. Ross Hutchinson, of the wrestling fanzine, Sucker Punch, thinks a revival is just around the corner. "If people like Paul Martin keep their promises and stick with quality, then it's going to happen. This time, the audience has to feel that it is seeing the real thing. The trouble with the Giant Haystacks era was that if you market something as a joke then no-one will take it seriously."

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Phil Powers is another of the would-be stars. Aged 24, with short dark hair, he is superbly fit and good-looking, billed as a favourite with young women and their mums. Like many of the upcoming stars be is based in the south-east, whereas old-style wrestlers like Big Daddy and Giant Haystacks were more often northerners. Powers is convinced that the new style of British wrestling, more athletic, more aggressive, with less of a Carry On image, needs the new glitzy presentation if it is to take off. "If the greasy spoon was selling the finest caviar," he says, "it would not be appreciated in the same way as it is in a 6ne restaurant."

The trouble, of course, with engineering changes in fashion is that the future is guess work. For those awaiting a breakthrough, sticking with the current wrestling scene is an act of faith. At some events you can be lucky to clear £50 or £60 for a bout. There is, of course, the merchandising on top of that, pictures and T-shirts that people like Big Daddy hawked around long after they had ceased to compete, But the world of holiday camps, where a great deal of wrestling still takes place, is dismal. Especially when you realise that millions of people are watching American wrestling on

satellite channels. Earlier this month, more than 15,000 people were drawn to watch these American TV stars, live, on a rare visit to the London Docklands Arena. Even the hard man of British football, Vinnie Jones, was hired for one bont, playing an enforcer character. It was an event that made the likes of Paul Martin even more sure that a wrestling breakthrough is imminent.

Nevertheless, many people are going to be terribly disappointed if smush wrestiing throws away this last chance of a revival. Phil Powers works out every day, doing crosscountry runs, gymnastics and swimming. But, newly married with two step-children and a baby of his own, he has had to take a job working in a warehouse for a parcel delivery

company to get by. In a couple of years, Phil Powers could be a household name, and rich or he may still be a nobody. "I would have given up but for the UWA," he confesses. "Now I'm going to give wrestling two more years," he says hopefully. "After that, if it doesn't work out, I'm going back to school, on to university and I'm going to get a proper career. If a revival doesn't happen now, then maybe it's time wrestling went the way of Giant Haystacks and Big Daddy and was laid to rest."

"Iron Duke" Lynch is convinced that Phil Powers will get his hig break. At 31, looking threatening with his blond mohican, shaven at the sides, he has kept the faith through the hard times. He even has to put up his own ring for some events. Unable to make a full-time living from boxing, he makes ends meet playing

villains and thugs as a TV extra. Despite all of this, a man who just said farewell to Giant Haystacks is full of hope. "You can look at Britain, and the lack of televised British matches, and say wrestling is dead here. And then you see how well the sport is doing in America, thanks to being on the box and you say to yourself, "That can work here, too'."

The goalkeeper's fear of the genetically modified pig

IN THESE last two days of the year I want to take your mind off all the bad news of 1998 by directing it to all the bad news of 1999. Yes, it's Old Miles's Almanack time again, as we gaze gloomily into the crystal hall and see the major events of the coming year...

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As Project New Labour falters, with the departure of chief architect Peter Mandelson, rumours abound of a new movement within Government ranks called Project Old

New Year's Honour List announced: people getting knighthoods all say "It's a wonderful surprise and shock honour", even though they've known about it for months. Only real surprise in List? Sir Peter Mandelson.

Scientists grow a human hand

As President Bill Clinton commences his impeachment trial, he tries to divert attention by bombing Baghdad again.

Richard Branson announces plans for new attempt to circle world in balloon. He will take off in 1999 and complete the trip in 2000, thus becoming the first person to take two centuries to go round the world.

A new miracle sex aid is launched on the American market, called Niagara. It has the opposite effect to that of Viagra: it removes sexual desire from men and gives them the urge to help with the washing up. Sales are moderate to begin with.

Rain, floods and wind. M4 under water. Global warming blamed.

Project Old Labour gains strength. Robin Cook and John Prescott emerge as leaders. Their claim is that New Labour wins elections but Old Labour runs governments. Second human hand is grown on

pig. Scientists say the idea is to train Percy the pig as goalkeeper. Cornish Tourist Board announces there are now no hotel bedrooms left in Cornwall for solar eclipse in August and pleads with

tourists to go elsewhere. Sales of Niagara, the sexual depressant, start to boom. It turns out that many American women are buying it secretly to put in husbands' food and drink.

Ferocious snow, ice and frost in Britain. East Anglia splits off from Britain and floats away to sea. Global cooling hlamed.



KINGTON

Percy keeps a clean score sheet, despite protests that he now takes the field wielding five hands

New best-seller from Bill Bryson: Notes from My Last Book, a col- having a wild affair with one of the dation. Global wetting is hlamed.

lection of pieces which have previously been serialised from previous books.

Percy the Pig turns out in friendly football match between Steve Jones's Geneticists XI and Richard Dawkins's All Star Atheists. He keeps a clean score sheet, despite protests that he now takes the field wielding five hands.

Champagne industry, desperately overstocked, puts out rumour that there may be none left by millennium. Sales perk up.

Frank Sinatra comes back from the dead for surprise concert tour Warmest March on record. Richard Branson balloon emissions blamed.

Rumours circulate that Clinton is

Congresswomen involved in his impeachment trial. Angrily he denies t and drops a few bombs on Libya. Blair declares himself right behind Clinton

Richard Branson announces that when his balloon goes round the world from century to century, he will be dressed as Mr Darcy from Pride and Prejudice.

New smash hit all-girl group called Hello Girls sweeps to top of charts, meets Prince Charles, squabbles, splits and disbands.

Pregnancy rate in the USA takes a dramatic tumble; success of Niagara is hlamed.

Norfolk spotted going through the Bering Strait. Could be the first English county to sail round world. No sign of Suffolk. Fears expressed. Gales, rain, flooding and inun-

Gordon Brown makes hid for premiership but fails to reach reserve price.

Alex Ferguson huys Percy the Pig to replace now departed Peter Schmeichel.

Cornish champagne stocks exhausted; dangerously low in Devon.

Percy the Pig leaves full-time football and gets his own late-night TV chat show.

First Iraqi bombs start to drop on Washing ton DC Norfolk makes landfall off Chile Many Chileans take day trip to Norfolk from Santiago. Verdict: quite

nice but hit horing, really. Second half of 1999 coming tomorrow!

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A search for a hero that helps us to define ourselves

THE TODAY programme's poll for "person of the millennium" seems over-optimistic: how can 1,000 years of human endeavour possibly he condensed into a single name, however stellar? And how can one limit that search to inhabitants of the British Isles?

But the poll is not as ridiculous as that first reaction assumes; one can understand how it has captured the public imagination as more than a diverting pariour game. As we approach the millennium we will come increasingly to consider who and what we are. Searching for a single representative of our achievements is a part of this process. The millennium celebrations will mean nothing if they do not give us the opportunity to redefine ourselves.

British heroes will inevitably resonate more than those from other shores, however important their achievements. Many of those voting have preferred Winston Churchill for this reason. There is no doubt that he stood out as a hrave leader in the perilous late summer of 1940: he saved Britain from an ignoble "peace" with Germany. But is he really the hero for a whole millennium?

Britain has had other saviours. It is partly because his deeds are comparatively recent that we so lionise Churchill. Fewer now remember Queen Elizabeth I's diplomacy, which brought England relatively unseathed through an era of internecine religious war, and defied imperial Spain with England's puny resources.

Remembering her highlights the shortage of women among the candidates. Elizabeth herself is so far the first woman in the list, unjustifiably standing rather alone in the field of politics. The feminists of the early part of this century strove to effect the greatest political upheaval since the establishment of parliamentary sovereignty itself. It was they who finally secured the principle that all mentally able adults should be entitled to vote, an ideal that civil rights movements the world over were to mobilise.

The Pankhurst sisters and their suffragette campaign played a key role in securing political rights for British women. Mary Wollstonecraft's writings served as an inspiration for a generation of radical women. Such campaigners should have attracted more votes.

We should also consider those from beyond our borders, if only to provide a sense of perspective. The great Mogul Emperor Akhbar conquered much of the known world, and attempted to unite his conquests under one ecumenical religion. More recently, Gandhi and Mandela have hrought succour to oppressed peoples. Britons should remember how lucky they are: they have secured their liberties without requiring such charismatic leadership.

Gutenberg gave hirth to the modern media hy inventing the moving typeface. Galileo, by insisting that Earth was one planet among many, altered man's sense of place



in the physical universe. Martin Luther forced the medieval Church to re-consider its secular purpose. He did not intend to, hut laid the groundwork for the rise of rational and worldly inquiry. After such men, nothing and nothing in Britain - would be the same again. Their names are instructive of the rise of northern Europe as opposed to the Mediterranean and Arab world which had dominated the first millennium, shaped by Jesus, Constantine and Muhammad.

These names also demonstrate how Japan and China. ancient civilisations forged on Confucian thinking, have been isolated and in eclipse for much of this millennium, losing their head-start over Western civilisations.

Shakespeare's presence in the list is a warning not to focus on politicians, scientists and philosophers. The joy still imparted by the music of Mozart, the plays of Chekhov or the novels of Proust loom large for many. But there is nothing wrong with settling on a figure from public rather than artistic life; civic duty needs every

encouragement in an age deeply sceptical about politics. If we are to accept the Radio 4 rules, we can narrow the field to three candidates, whose thought was so profound as to alter the entire intellectual world. Charles Darwin, whose work was scientific, but seeped into religious, philosophical and political discourse too, Adam Smith, a Scot in a list failing to reflect their vital contribution to British history, established modern economics as a discipline, claimed as inspiration by economists as different as Marx to Milton Friedman.

The man who combines all that we are looking for is often overlooked. His name is Benjamin Franklin. As a scientist, he tamed lightning: the lightning conductor was his brainchild, allowing man to huild unafraid of the elements. Thunder and lightning had belonged to God: now they belonged to man. Technological advance since Franklin's time, from computers to space travel, has relied on the electricity he harnessed.

His confidence was remarkable. He became one of the

most fervent of Americans once the British connection was irretrievable. As a letter-writer, his erudition is legendary. The first of the "natural men" whose bourgeois mores were to come to dominate the globe, he declined to wear a wig while ambassador in Paris. He was selfmade, a printer and publisher, the first of a new hreed.

He was a master of the modern political art of compromise, striving to avoid the hreach with the mother country. He conceived the compromise between the rights of states and the popular vote, and the two-chamber Congress containing both a Senate and House of Representatives, that made the US possible.

Franklin replaced religious absolutes with what was practical, an American injunction that has since become world orthodoxy. And by happy coincidence, he was horn a loyal colonist - a Briton through and through. The next millennium will probably uncover as its hero a woman born in Lagos, São Paulo, or Nanking. But it is Franklin we humhly suhmit as person of this millennium.

Don't blame the spin-doctor blame his boss, Mr Brown

IF CHARLIE Whelan did not exist, it would, be necessary for the Government to invent him. This convenient Beelzehub has been identified as the source of the revelations of Peter Mandelson's home-loan arrangements without anything as vulgar as proof. ransom by one little oik," was Number 10's word to that newspaper of to the organ grinder. New Labour record, The Sun. The Blairites always call Mr Whelan an oik. It is practically a registered code.

So justice must be seen to be done and wild Charlie's ill-kempt head must roll to avenge the crime committed against Mr Mandelson. Clearly, the Prime Minister's hriefers had prepared the way to the scaffold.

Hardened lobby correspondents, who could go 12 rounds with a boa constrictor after a long lunch, came over faint at the memory of Charlie's rough and ready techniques. "Enemies were bollocked to their face in profane language... Journalists who transgressed were telephoned at home to be told that their stories were 'crap'," wrote one columnist. The horror, the horror. One pictured sweat-drenched hacks whimpering in fear because meone called them at home and

wore at them. True, when it comes to briefing against his enemies Mr Whelan has enough previous convictions to keep a whole army of probation officers occupied. He is all the usual suspects rolled into one. But it is a little too easy to pin the blame for this ragged state of affairs solely on one old lag who is, in the Westmister grand scheme of things, a minor player.

Mr Whelan is nothing more and nothing less than the most public symbol of the undigested tension between Tony Blair and Gordon Brown. Were relations between the Prime Minister and his Chancellor not so fraught, he would not have been free "The Government will not be held to to ply his mischievous trade in the first place. Don't hlame the monkey - look

> If, as Alastair Campbell, John Prescott, Jack Cunningham, Uncle Tom Cobley and all suggest, Mr Whelan briefed the journalist Paul Routledge against Peter Mandelson, then he did so because he knew that this was what his master wanted. Indeed, he was behaving exactly as he had done the last time he served up to Mr Routledge touching details of Mr Brown's unhappiness at the manner in which Mr Blair had snatched the

> leadership from him. Mr Whelan is daft but not stupid. Detonating another powerful charge at a target as well protected as Peter Mandelson was a high-risk enterprise and not one which he would have undertaken single-handedly.

The real reason for the discord is and always has been the unclarified nature of the relationship between Mr Brown and Mr Blair. Like mediaeval knights, they have allowed their minions to go to war against one another while preserving a serene countenance and giving generously to the Church. The whole husiness is fetid with pretence. Nothing could be more amusing - or soul-destroying. depending on your view - than Mr



ANNE MCELVOY

Charlie Whelan is just the most public symbol of the undigested tension between Blair and his Chancellor

As connoisseurs of feuds will tell you, this is the most potent weapon by far. When I heard that Mr Brown had called Mr Mandelson five times to tell him how sorry he was for his trouble and that Mr Mandelson had been very grateful, I prayed for both their souls.

It is often said that Mr Blair and Mr Brown have a close working relationship and that rumours of a rift are therefore unfounded. But the real story of the two men is far more tortuous, complex and destructive than outright liking or not liking.

They are both architects of New Labour, hut their views differ profoundly of why a reformed party is necessary and how its evolution will proceed. The Brownites believe in the Labour Party, as a cultural entity Mandelson and Mr Brown fencing and a continuum with the past. They each other now with showy niceness. celebrate the memory of the late leagues is. Mr Brown does not respect is gone, the casus belli will fester on.

John Smith, who was a decent and kindly man, but no political mouldhreaker. Ask a disciple of Mr Brown's whether Smith would have won the 1997 election if he had lived and they will reply without hesitation that he would have done so and made an excellent Prime Minister. They would have preferred to see a traditional product of the Labour party in Number 10 than the confident outsider

there today. Natural-born Blairites feel differently. Their fierce loyalty to Tony stems from a visceral belief that neither Mr Smith nor Mr Brown could have constructed a political force with such over whelming appeal to the middle-classes and driven the Conservative party to the margins of relevance. This theory that Mr Blair is somehow exceptional irks Mr Brown - the more so since the Chancellor has the more classical political intellect.

Yet it is Mr Blair who has the keener instinct for power and more innate understanding of what the country's hopes and fears are. I do not know whether the Chancellor will ever come to terms with this uncomfortable fact of life. A lot of his operations - the cultivation of Mr Robinson, the deployment of Mr Robinson's wealth and the creation of elosely-knit court around the Treasury - suggest that he cannot resist squirreling away favours and political debts for the day when he can bid once again to lead the Labour Party.

Harbouring this dream is not wrong in itself. Allowing it to contaminate his dealings with close col- oreven recognise - the distinction.

The problem for those who wish to loosen Mr Brown's clenched grip on old resentments is that most of the Labour Party, in the country and in Parliament, and the vast majority of the Cabinet consider him to be a decent man, driven to the edge of mania by the disappointment he suffered in the leadership race. There is no appetite for a show-down between Mr Blair and Mr Brown which would end in the humiliation - or even the removal - of the Chancellor. The Prime Minister knows that it would undermine his appeal and authority if they

are seen to be too hard on Gordon. For all the appearance of being a ruthless, lean fighting force, New Labour is an emotionally supercharged and rather vulnerable group of people, unable to stop scratching at old scars. It has its own sentimentality, as acute as anything the old socialists with their banners and slogans had to offer. Mr Blair stands aloof of this, but knows that it matters and that the illusion of warmth and friendship must be maintained at the top of the

party, however viciously reality bites. So Charlie Whelan has become the lightening conductor, diverting the rage and resentment that should more properly fall on Mr Brown. The reason the spin-doctor will probably have to go is not because he was the author of the leak. He may well not have been. Nor is because he exceeded his master's brief. It is because he fulfiled it too well. The sacrifice of Charlie is intended to end the tribal massacres of the last week. When he

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"It's a topsy-turvy world and a topsy-turvy game. Dovid Lloyd, England cricket coach

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"The end of the human race will be that it will eventually die of civilisation." Ralph Waldo Emerson, American essayist



Cold, homeless and alone

Hundreds of young people, from across the UK, will come to us over the next few weeks - the coldest of the winter. Christmas - a time of 'family togetherness' - is also when many young people are thrown out of home. Without immediate help homelessness can soon become a way of life - and cause of death.

Alone in London runs a unique service to help young lives shattered by family breakdown. Right now our Crisis Counselling and Family Mediating Teams are working flat out to ensure these young people do not become permanently homeless. Starting with a hot meal and help to find emergency accommodation we take practical steps to reconcile young people with their families or support them in starting a life away from home - secure from the

* £30 could help 1 young person * £270 could help 9 young people

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Help put shattered lives back together

during the Sydney-Hobart race have extracted a terrible toll in terms of lives lost, sailors injured, and boats crippled, some of them probably beyond repair. ensure the safety of their ves-Civilian and military rescue personnel were mobilised in the higgest rescue operation at es were put at risk in order to save those whose yachts had been disabled and who

therefore could not save them-

selves. And through all this the

THE HAZARDOUS conditions Cruising Yacht Club in Sydney would say only that, as the race rules stand, "the final decision to continue racing rests with the individual skippers to

sel and crew". The starts of the Melbourne to Hobart and Melbourne to Devenport yacht races were Cruising Yacht Club should sensibly delayed because of the weather The Sydney to Hobart yacht race should have been delayed also. If the rules don't allow for this, then the

MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD Australian comment on the Sydney-Hobart yacht race tragedy

change the rules.

EVEN FOR those thousands of and perils of the race through landlubbers left standing and

staring from the Sydney Heads, listening to the radio for the latest fleet positions, vicariously sharing the pleasures the crews, it is plain that sailingly, frighteningly elemental. Wind. Water. Human strength and skill. And, yes, courage. Whatever happens - worse, whoever may die - almost all

troduction of sophisticated

those who survive will resume the perennial struggle between sailor and sea. As those involved in the race explain, lives are not unnecessarily endangered, but there will always be risks. And, for so The Australian

winds, there will always he gadgetry it remains fascinat- men and women willing to run those risks. Sydney Morning Herald THE IMAGE of Bruce Guy's

ing is special. Despite the in- long as there are waves and

abandoned yacht will haunt this race forever. The two who died (the skipper, whose heart gave out, Phil Skeggs, drowned after the boat capsized) had to be left on board as their crewmates were rescued.

RIGHT OF REPLY

HOWARD **DAVIES**

The secretary general of the British Air Transport Association responds to reports that airline safety will be affected by the millennium bug

THERE IS a lot of conjecture concerning the impact of the coming of the year 2000 on computer systems which support essential services. There can, however, be no doubt that the year 2000 will happen, and airlines must be ready to meet the challenge.

Modern aircraft. and ground support services such as air traffic control systems, reservation and baggage handling systems, are heavily dependent on computer support for their operations. Airlines have been aware that there is a potential for some problems with these systems, and there is a shared responsibility with suppliers to ensure that these are addressed and resolved where necessary. Indeed, some airlines commenced some initial work on this as long as three years ago.

In addition, the worldwide study already being undertaken by the International Air Transport Association, in order to determine readiness of airport infra-structure, is an example of collective international co-operation.

So where does this leave the travelling public? UK airlines working with others, including government departments, are well aware of the possible implications of the "millennium bug" and are working on solutions to resolve difficulties which may arise. Some airlines bave already indicated that they will not be flying on the eve, and into the early bours, of the millennium.

The arrival of the year 2000 may give rise to some disruption to normal services, but premature actions - such as the cross-party committee's list of "unsafe" airlines and airports - unnecessarily confuse the issue.

Airlines are committed to the safety of passengers and crew and the travelling public can be assured that airlines will evaluate all the options before deciding exactly what course of action to take.

At present we are working on the premise that worldwide operations will continue as normal. hut the decision as to whether to continue to operate, or indeed restrict, operations to certain destinations will be taken at the appropriate time as further evidence is gained and the picture be-

comes clearer. Ultimately individual cirlines, taking into account all the factors at play, will make their own decision as to what they will do to ensure the safety of passengers in the light of the millennium bug.

Forget the old feuds and save the economy

AS YOU might have guessed, the phone lines have been busy between Labour MPs over Christmas as we analysed the latest casualties from the enduring bitterness of the Labour leadership contest of 1994. People outside politics most probably think it's all a bit sick to have people still settling scores over events almost half a decade old. People in politics seem to have exceptionally long memories for every snuh and slight, and there's no greater snub than being denied the leadership of a political party that you believed was rightfully yours.

The general consensus amongst colleagues I spoke to was that the recent debt-settling has been so damaging to the Government as a whole, that everyone may now draw a line under the events of the past. I fear my colleagues are allowing their wishes to cloud their critical faculties. My clearest lesson in how long people can hold a grudge dates back to 1971 when, as a newly elected Lambeth councillor. I sat next to Minnie Kidd, an old time right winger from Clapham Labour Party. I can no longer remember what minor position was the subject of



KEN LIVINGSTONE

The fall-out from Tony Blair's election as leader may be with us for a generation or two yet

contention but I was amazed to see that Minnie Kidd was voting for the left wing candidate against an equally old right winger who was also from Clapham Labour Party. When I challenged her on her remarkable hit of cross voting she replied with hard determination: "He didn't vote for me to go to Labour Party conference in 1935!" If you're still set-

tling scores over who didn't go to

on then I suspect the fall-out from Tony Blair's election as Labour leader may be with us for a generation or two yet.

For me the most appalling aspect of this whole affair is the amount of energy that has been put into party in-fighting to the neglect of the real duty of getting macro economic policy right. When I compare the amount of effort that must have gone into the events before Christmas with the inadequacy that underlies the Treasury pre-Budget report I get quite angry. The pre-Budget report claims

that the economy will grow by between 1 to 1.5 per cent based on an increase in personal and household consumption of between 1.75-2.25 per cent in 1999. The report presumes that the economic slow-down will not lead to an increase in the level of unemployment sufficient to put downward pressure on the growth of real wages. Whilst this may be optimistic, the Government can always affect individual income via tax changes and social transfers so in principle this target could be achieved. The real error in the Budget

Labour Party conference 36 years forecast is in the area the Government cannot control, such as trade, and will not control - investment. Brown's report predicts that fixed investment will rise from between 1.75-2.25 per cent next year. This is just rubbish. It simply is not credible to suggest that fixed investment will grow almost twice as rapidly as GDP [gross domestic product] as it is one of the clearest features of the business cycle that fluctuations in investment are greater than those in GDP. Fixed investment invariably rises much faster than GDP during the upswing of the business cycle

> downswing of the business cycle, fixed investment will rise even less than GDP in the coming year. In fact, the figures had already turned downwards by the second quarter of 1998 - declining by 1.4 per cent compared with the first quarter. If Gordon Brown'a advisors are unaware of the basic relationship between investment and GDP they are even less well informed on the

question of the impact of trade on

Britain. Gordon's report claimed

that the worsening of Britain's trade

and falls more rapidly during the

downswing. As we are clearly in the

gap will only cut 1.25 per cent from our GDP in 1999. Up until the second quarter of 1998, exports of British goods and services rose by 4 per cent, but this was a dramatic decline from the peak of 9.5 per cent in the third quarter of 1997, following the impact of high interest rates and an overvalued pound; the surge of cheap imports from Asia, as well as the slow-down in the whole glob-

Unfortunately for Gordon's predictions the decline of the value of the pound has been too slow due to continuing high interest rates. This reflects the Treasury's failure to sufficiently tighten fiscal policy in the Government's first year, so putting pressure on the Bank of England to force up interest rates.

Taking all these factors, along with a sharper deceleration in world GDP it is clear that Gordon's predictions for GDP are too optimistic for both investment and trade. Even if we make the optimistic assumption that fixed investment is merely flat in 1999 and that the deterioration of net trade is 1 per cent of GDP, then this gives GDP growth for next year of zero. But the

risk is on the downside. It is more likely that fixed investment will fall and that net trade will deteriorate more rapidly than Gordon expects. If this is the case then the economy will slip into recession. But if there is a more rapid than expected recovery in Asia and Japan these figures would improve, but equally a devaluation in China or Brazil, or a coliapse on Wall Street, would dramatically worsen these figures.

Declining investment will lethally undermine our welfare-to-work programme and even the optimistic scenario of zero growth could mean the loss of up to 2,000 seats on Labour councils in May if the downswing reaches its low point before the local elections. We are handing our opponents for the Welsh and Scottish elections a dagger aimed at our heartlands.

My prediction for 1999 is that on the morning of Friday, 7 May defeated Labour candidates all over Britain will be colourfully expressing the view that a hit more effort should have gone into getting the British economy right, and a little less into pursuing the feuds of leadership hattles past.

Can immoral artists produce great works? Discuss (with examples)

IT'S A traumatic business being a female student in Edinburgh these days. Two days ago a bust of Arthur Koestler at Edinburgh University where his bequest of £500,000 set up a chair in parapsychology - was removed from public display for "security reasons" after female students reported feeling uneasy under its gaze".

Great novelists and philosophers can have that effect on young people approaching exams. But in this case it was more a glint in the sculpture's eye. Koestler has fallen victim to the curse of biography. His private life is damned in a recent book. Thus his works and literary reputation must be damaed too.

We have tended to take a lenient view of great artists indulging in sexsexual politics. And bere the issue is not so clean cut. Where Sir Richard Burton's wife,

for years damned as a wet towel to ber busband, is reconstituted as his saviour in a new joint biography just out, a televsion documentary to come out later this month does the opposite for Clara Schuman. Once portrayed as her busband's guardian angel, the director claims she destoyed his best work and left him alone in his asylum at the end.

Once hiography moves into the bedroom, who is safe? What if a great artist was guilty of sexual harassment? What if he were a rapist?

The last is particularly pertinent. A biography of Koestler, the supposedly great humanitarian and champion of civil liberties in his fic-Michael Foot, confirms how Koestler several decades ago abused her hospitality, hurled her to the floor in her own home, and raped her. The biography claims that rape



DAVID LISTER

Curling up with a good book is not the same thing as curling up with the author

ual activity. But a new rash of reve- was "almost a hallmark of his conlations have moved on from sex to duct". And the women of Edinburgh have had their literary tastes altered for good - and the hust removed.

This is a new twist on where to draw the line. Should the private life of an author lead to the removal of his statue in public places? Let's bope no damning biography is being prepared on Sir Walter Scott. The politically correct students of Edinburgh will demand a remodelling of Princes Street.

The author of the Koestler hiography, Professor David Cesarani. concludes that Koestler should be seen "in the round" as a person who had done disgraceful things, but who was a heroic campaigner.

There is an alternative view: namely that he should not be "seen" at all, his work should. Instead of balancing the heroic and the disgracetion, exposes him as a serial rapist. ful in a literary gamble that the Jill Craigie, the novelist wife of author might emerge on the right side of the moral line, his books still saleable, his bust unthreatening, might it not be more constructive to judge an author purely on what is been impressed by a book and want written, a composer purely on the

music produced. Terry Eagleton, the Oxford, post-structuralist academic, is one who believes the text is all and despairs of "the English mania for biography". It is a Britisb weakness, he says,

that we seem less interested in ideas than in the sexual habits of those who had them. "The narratives we relish are not fictions, but the real-life stories of fiction-makers."

The female students of Edinburgh will have to avert their eves from the newly suspect gazes of the following: George Orwell, we recently learned, shopped communists to the intelligence services. Shakespeare, to the bizarre outrage of some feminists, left his wife the bome's second-best bed in his will. The much loved but adulterous composer, Janacek, was a stinker to his missus, her newly published diaries reveal; Einstein's theory of relativity did not include being true to the relatives. He not only had an affair, but it was with a Russian spy. So that should create some much needed space on the bookshelves and CD racks. Gets rid of a few city centre statues too. And the BBC can expect a demo by militant feminists outside Broadcasting House if the Today programme makes Shakespeare its man of the millennium.

Despite the presumptuous theories now current about how be treated his wife, the great thing about Shakespeare is that he never gave an interview, appeared on a chat show, wrote an autobiography or even a programme note. We have to judge his plays on their merits.

The massive irony in the literary revaluation following revelations about the author (or bust removal as it might come to he known) is that we only read a literary biography in the first place hecause we have to know more about its author. To



The controversial Arthur Koestler in 1980, with his wife Cynthia

then reject the virtues we first noted in the book because we discover that the author was a less than perfect human being may have moral worth; it certainly has no aesthetic or academic worth. No one would suddenly find a much-loved huilding ugly because of a negative biography of the architect. A work of literature or a piece of music are no less worthy of

objective judgement. And yet I have to admit it is hard not to have a problem with Koestler. Had he written detective stories, then his appalling attitude towards women would probably not affect one's critical appraisal of them.

ficult to read Darkness At Noon, his sensitive and distressing portrayal of life under Stalin's torturers, without a feeling that he was no slouch at inflicting pain, trauma and distress himself.

But Darkness At Noon was a work of fiction. Koestler was not Thomas Jefferson, who preached liberty from a public platform. And even revelations about Jefferson do not demean the essence of his message. Once published, a novel transcends its author, its message and theme transcend its creator's private life. If not, then where do we stop? Do we dismiss the melancholic glamour of Graham Greene's anti-heroes because the latest biography of him reveals that, into his sixties, be never travelled without his teddy bear?

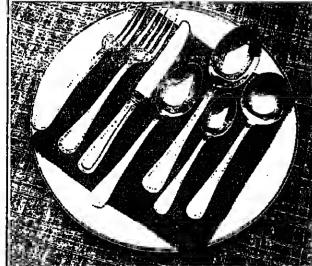
Artistic creations must be used and judged in their own vacuum, free from their creators' weaknesses. moral failings, even criminal acts. It is not that long a road from removing busts to hurning books.

Perhaps the students of Edinburgh should replace the hust and put underneath it the words: "Curling up with a good book is not the same as curling up with the author." What matters is the work produced. Great artists don't have to be nice. Very often they were, and are. cussed, selfish and hell to live with.

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Tuesday'a plea to help Tony Blair choose his New Year's resolution. Predictably, suggestions range from the inspirationally sober to the entertainingly absurd. For example, Gordon Cann, a retired teacher from

Bournemouth, rang to propose that the Prime Minister "resolve for one year to abolish spin doctors, three-line whips and restore the public's faith in the democratic process. In other words, take a risk." In a rhetorical vein, Mustafa Kundili, a student from Yorkshire, wants Tony to resolve "to stop using the words 'new', 'you know'

PANDORA'S READERS are

responding in massive numbers to

and 'like' in every statement". Playwright Brian Behan, brother of the late Brendan and a frequent correspondent with Pandora, struck a grim note with his proposal: "Blair should hang himself, after turning himself in as a war criminal first. I would stretch his neck myself."

On a rather more whimsical note, Iris Jones-Morrison, a London marketing executive, suggests that Tony should "make a resolution to bring Roy Hattersley back into the Cabinet'

More fluff balls from the rich tapestry of Pandora'a readership

PANDORA

A DEDICATED site on the Web is running nothing but anagrams of "Peter Mandelson". The most compelling, to date, reads "lean modern pest".

CHRISTMAS INVARIABLY means the resurrection of Raymond Briggs's Snowman character in some form or other. This year, a grand production of The Snowman is being staged at the Peacock Theatre in London's West End. Briggs, however, bas so far failed to attend any performances, despite a seat being reserved for him by the

producers. Yesterday he assured Pandora that he would be going in the next few weeks and dismissed any suggestion that he was bored with his Snowman creation, which is now

two decades old. "I'm quite delighted that the production is on. Obviously I wouldn't want to get involved with designing a new production. or making another film of it. You have to move on."

Briggs said. He added: "The Snowman has proved itself to be something of a mini-industry. You could say it has snowballed."

IN THE Middle Ages, there was a great demand for holy relics. Little has changed in today's age of celebrity worship. Some months ago Pandora reported on the Internet auction of John Lennon's toilet, and the growing market in celebrity porcelain.

Now it appears the relic market is, well, softening a little, with the recent announcement of the forthcoming sale - on the Weh

of a pair of green silk knickers once worn by Barbra Streisand. Meanwhile, the search goes on for

Brian Jones's toothhrush,

"COMPLETE AND utter rubbish," was the reaction of the Duchess of York's press spokeswoman, Kate Waddington, when Pandora rang her yesterday to check out an outlandish piece of gossip published by a New York tabloid on Tuesday.

Man Hand

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Its claim was that Fergie had spent \$10,000 (just over £6,000) on ervants, champagne and food while celebrating Christmas with her sister Jane and family - then forwarded the bill to Prince Andrew and jumped on a plane to go skiing in Italy with Count Gaddo della Gheradesca.

"She had a normal Christmas lunch with her sister's family at Wood Farm. Their father joined them for the day." Waddington insisted. "There's no question of sending the bill anywhere else. Sbe's certainly not going akiing in the Dolomites, hecause she's flying to New York to spend New Year with Weight Watchers."

DON'T GET too excited when you see John Travolta's (pictured) name at the top of the billings for the new World War II epic. The Thin Red Line, directed by Terrence Malick, and based on the James Jones novel. "I'm only in it for five minutes," Travolta said recently. "If you get up for popcorn, I'm out of there."

صكذا من الاصل

David Manners

man whose screen career was confined entirely to the Thirties, during which he was in great demand. He made 37 films between 1930 and 1936, and played romantic lead to such stars as Barbara Stanwyck, Katharine Hepburn, Kay Francis and Constance Bennett.

Though he was excellent as the hero-worshipping young officer in Journey's End and the blind man who falls in love with a faith-healer in The Miracle Woman, it is for his roles in three classic horror films -Dracula with Bela Lugosi, The Mummy with Boris Karloff, and The Black Cat with both Lugosi and Karloff - that he is best remembered, and a few years ago he commented on the interest being shown in him by movie magazines and historians. Most of today's fans are 14-year-old worshippers of the horror films - my only claim to movie fame."

Claiming descent from William the Conqueror, Manners was born Rauff de Ryther Duan Acklom in Halifax. Nova Scotia, in 1902 (some sources state 1900 or 1905). The family tree and in The Right to Love (1931) was of his mother, Lilian Manners, included Lady Diana Cooper and the Duke of Rutland, while the Ackloms included the writers Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, W.H. Horning and Morley Aklom - Manners himself would

take up writing later in his career. He was educated at Collegiate Grammar School in Windsor, Ontario, and earned a degree in forestry at the University of Toronto, where he also studied acting under Bertram Forsyth, who ran the Hart House Theatre, where Manners made his stage début in the title role of Euripides' Hippolytus, After graduation, his jobs included foreman of a lumber camp in Canada and salesman in a London antique shop. When his parents moved to the United States, Manners decided to

try his luck in the New York theatre. In 1924 he joined Basil Sydney's touring company; his roles included Bezano the bareback rider in He Who Gets Slapped and Solveig's father in Peer Gynt. He made his Broadway debut in Dancing Mothers (1924), a comedy starring Helen cape wrapped around him, posing in

DAPPER AND handsome. David Hayes The production's stage man-Manners was a serviceable leading ager was George Cukor, who years later would direct Manners in the film A Bill of Divorcement (1932).

The actor's first film role was a prestigious one. James Whale had directed both the London and New York productions of R.C. Sherriff's powerful anti-war play Journey's End, and was signed to direct the film version in 1930. He was having difficulty casting the pivotal role of the young Second Lieutenant Raleigh who irritates the seasoned Captain with his optimism and loyalty, and was thinking of seoding to England for Maurice Evans when he was introduced to Manners, who successfully tested for the role.

With his clean-cut looks and perfect diction, Manners was quickly offered more roles, and starred opposite the former silent star Alice Joyce in He Knew Women (1930), Alice White in Sweet Mama (1930) and Loretta Young in Kismet (1930), in which he effectively played the young Caliph in love with a beggar's daughter. He was vamped by Myrna Lov in The Truth About Youth (1930) Ruth Chatterton's secret lover.

The role of John Harker, the nominal lead in Dracula (1931), was offered to Manners after several actors, including Lew Ayres, had

Manners with Katharine Hepburn in A Bill of Divorcement, 1932

intoned with sepulchral emphasis, I am Dracula . . I am Dracula!' " Asked about the film's director Tod Browning, Manners said, "The only directing I saw was done by Kurt Freund, the cinematographer."

Manners gave one of his most sensitive performances as a burntout flying ace in William Dieterle's underrated The Last Flight (1931)

'Most of today's fans are 14-year-old worshippers of the horror films – my only claim to movie fame'

turned it down. During script reviand was fine as the shy blind man sions, the role of Renfield, the estate who conveys his love for Barbara agent who is vampirised, had been Stanwyck through a ventriloquist's huilt up leaving Harker little more dummy in Frank Capra's The Mirthan a worried bystander, but Manacle Woman (1931), though the film ners was given a higher salary than was banned in the UK. George Cukor the rest of the cast and the film was cast him as Katharine Hepburn's fian enormous success. Manners was ance, rejected by her after she discovers there is insanity in her family, to work with Lugosi twice more, and later commented that he found him in A Bill of Divorcement (1932), and "a pain in the ass from start to fin-Manners was to remain part of Ish. He would pace around the Cukor's circle of close friends until sound-stage between scenes, velvet the director's death in 1983. He was not too effective as the ro-

front of a full-length mirror while he mantic lead in The Mummy (1932), a superior horror film dominated by Karloff, but was praised for his lively performance in The Warrior's Husband (1933), which he followed with the role of the centurion in the musical Roman Scandals (1933).

In The Black Cat (1934), considered the finest film of the director Edgar Ulmer, Manners and Jacqueline Wells were newly weds caught in a storm and taking shelter in the gloomy castle of Karloff and Lugosi. Though the film owes little to the Poe original, it is made with subtle expressionism and a dream-like atmosphere that is hauntingly effective. Manners played the title role in The Mystery of Edwin Drood (1935), strangled by Claude Rains on Christmas Eve, and appeared with Katharine Hephurn again in A Woman Rebels (1936), after which he retired from acting to concentrate on writing.

He was coaxed back to the theatre 10 years later, starring in Maxwell Anderson's play Truckline Cafe. Directed by Elia Kazan and featuring an unknown Marlon Brando, the play ran for 13 performances on Broadway But in December 1946 Manners scored a great personal success when he took over from Henry Daniell as Lord Windermere in Lady Windermere's Fan. Designed hy Cecil Beaton, the play was a hit in New York and toured for a year, after which Manners announced his permanent retirement as an actor. David Manners had a home in Pa-

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cific Palisades, which he shared with a fellow writer, William Mercer, and ran an art gallery. Among his published books were two novels. Convenient Season and Under Running Laughter, and two philosophical works, Look Through and The Soundless Voice, the latter described by one critic as "a penetrating book on meditation".

In recent years, rich due to land investments, he lived alone in an ocean-view apartment in Santa Barbara. Married briefly early in his career, he was noted for maintaining a private personal life and refusing to dwell oo the past, though he declared fond memories of his Hollywood friendships with Mary Pickford, Douglas Fairbanks, George Arliss, Constance Bennett and others. "Tried and true friendship," be said, "that's what this old world needs plenty of."

Rauff de Ryther Duan Acklom (David Manners), actor: born Halifax, Nova Scotia 30 April 1902; married; died Santa Barbara, California 23 December 1998.

Ernie Perry

the House of Commons, the abiding memory of Ernie Perry is standing at the entrance to the aye wards and saying: "I counted you in and I counted you out." Perry was enormously proud of being the first undertaker ever to become a Member of Parliament.

Erme Perry - no one dreamt of calling him Ernest - was born in London, brought up in London and was thoroughly London. He left school at 14 and went into the textile industry. In the early Thirties, he became unemployed, but for the next 30 years made his way in the insurance industry.

In 1934, aged only 26, he joined the Battersea Borough Council. For the next third of a century, he aerved as a councillor, becoming Mayor of Battersea in 1955-56 and later an Alderman of the Borough of Wandsworth. He was the very essence of Herbert Morrison's London local government and all that it entailed.

Perty spent formative years during the Second World War as a gunner becoming a troop sergeant in the Indian Artillery and serving through-out the Far East. For the rest of his life, he was extremely concerned about the conditions of servicemen and developed a lasting and sensitive interest in the working conditions of Asians. This extended to a real understanding of the problem of the immigrant Asian communities which came under Battersea Council's umbrella, and he met them in his work as a Member of Parliament.

In the 1964 general election in Battersea South there was the battle of the two Ernest Ps - Ernest Perry and the sitting Conservative Member Ernest Partridge; the labels were Labour Ernie vs Tory Ernest. Perry won in the small constituen-

FOR SOME of his contemporaries in cy by 12,253 votes to 10,615. Since the majority of the Wilson government was only five, later reduced to three, this was an important achievement. and no lobbies at divisions and with It owed a great deal to Perry's own his broad smile coming up after- popularity and also the fact that he was seen as a good counterfoil to the intellectual member for Battersea North, Harold Wilson's President of the Board of Trade, the Wykehamist and Oxford don Douglas Jay.

Apart from his sterling work in the whips' office, where he was very popular as London Whip. Perry made a real contribution to the House of Commons as a result of his expertise in the pensions industry, particularly the Policy Holders' Protection Bill of July 1975. He pointed out that it was necessary to differentiate between companies and friendly societies which deal in life insurance or general insurance only - of which over 95 per cent in Britain were stable and solvent - and companies which take over an insurance company and inject another sphere of activity into it, i.e. trying to link insurance with property bonds.

Repeatedly he told the Commons that the home insurance agent would give a person the advice to which he was entitled and which would suit his pocket. It was this kind of good advice in his professional capacity that endeared Perry as a councillor to so many in Battersea.

Behind the home service agent was a battery of unpaid officials who vetted his business. If they thought an agent had sold an industrial life policy when he should have sold an ordinary life policy, they would advise the impending policy holder to take an ordinary life policy. Sixty companies ranging from the Prudential Insurance Company to the Cooperative Insurance Society used to sell insurance on the doorstep. Perry argued that he and his colleagues had made it an honourable and useful profession, and indeed it was,

Ernie Perry was without ambition to be a minister and his purpose in the House of Commons which he served so well was that Labour in office should be a success and create benefit for those who put them there.

TAM DALYELL

Ernest George Perry, insurance agent, undertaker and politician: born London 25 April 1908; MP (Labour) for Battersea South 1961-74, Wandsworth, Battersea South 1974-79; Assistant Government Whip 1968-70, 1974-75, Opposition Whip 1970-74; married 1950 Edna Perks Mankelow (died 1998: one son); died London 28 December 1998.



Pushkin translations

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ROBERT POWELL-JONES was one of the most promising of his Oxford generation but also one of the most reckless. He was somebody whom you only had to meet once, on form, to know his exceptional capabilities. While his life was outwardly conventional - leading from a scholarship to Winchester and another (aged 16) to Wadham, where he won academic laurels; then an early, happy marriage and 20 years at the Bar - he was far too independent-minded and Romantic a character to be any-

thing but fundamentally restless. He was born in 1954. At Winchester, he suffered from severe depression and opted to go with his mother to Brazil. Apparently far pable in charge of a hicycle, when reinterpret its entire mythology.)

from robust (though in fact he boxed well!, Powell-Jones threw himself into a succession of hazardous activities, working at a banana plantation near São Paulo, trekking through forests in search of rubber, and then embarking for the Amazon on a small cutter which was destroyed in a storm. This culminated in a threeday sojourn with the rescuers, Indians, hitherto unaccustomed to Europeans; it is likely that Powell-Jones was the only person present to have read A Handful of Dust.

After these Conradian experiences, Powell-Jones found difficulty in settling down at Oxford. He was arrested for being drunk and inca-

dressed as a Chinaman. Nevertheless he obtained a First in Russian and in his later career invariably contrived to repair the ravages of the night. He had a lucid legal mind.

The son and stepson of diplomats, he was a formidable linguist, reading and speaking at least seven languages, and had a sound knowledge of pre-Christian civilisation. Some found him overly intellectual. He was not likely, for example, to take part in a discussion of fishing quotas given the option of looking at a Poussin. (Once, when be did look at a Poussin in a Bond Street gallery, he politely interrupted the gallery owner's detailed account of the painting to

and in particular the art and architecture of Rome, Florence, Venice and Paris, was passionate; he had limited affection for London and showed a marked reluctance to cross the river. He collected pictures and also commissioned them, notably an ongoing series of portraits of his

daughter, Stella, by Matthew Carr. Though he often seemed happiest with his own company, Powell-Jones revelled in companionship, even encouraged a Dionysian streak in others, though he could at times be an ecervating and forbidding presence. Easily irritated by what he perceived as an oafish element in many English men, he was strong-

His interest in European culture, ly drawn to the company of women a verse translation of Pushkin's The and was capable of developing tendresses at speed. An endearing feature was his ability to communicate freely, when he chose, with absolutely anyone.

The gifts of penetrative intelligence and pure intellect which enabled him to maintain an envied status at the Bar, where he specialised in Chancery work, were marred by a tendency to erratic behaviour, often associated with drink, which became steadily more prevalent and ended by disrupting both his professional and his domestic life.

He accepted all consequent changes of status with dignity and retired last year to York to work on

Bronze Horseman. He rediscovered the pleasures of research, establishing himself in the basement of the Brotherton Library, Leeds, where the essential Russian lexicon lived. He completed the translation of this and other Pushkin poems, also a short story, and arranged for their publication before his death from a heart attack. They will appear next year. WILLIAM JOLL

Robert James Powell-Jones, barrister: horn London 6 January 1954; called to the Bar. Middle Temple 1978; married 1980 Flora Fraser tone daughter; marriage dissolved 1992); died York 17 December 1998.

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, **MARRIAGES** & DEATHS

DEATHS

CAREY: Peter M. Oo 27 December, tragically, following a road faccident in Sri Lanka, aged 45.

Dearly beloved husband of Anita (nee George), loving father of William, Rhiannon, Angharad, Catrin and David and greatly loved son, brother, son-in-law, uncle and friend. Arrangements to be amounced in due course.

Any correspondence can be addressed c/o MJGF, Lee Bolton & Lee, 1 The Sanctuary, Westminster, London SW1P 3JT.

DEVLIN: Hugh Brendan, CBE FRCS, on 26 December 1998, husband of Ann, father of Tim, James, Peter and Brendan. Ser-vice at Middlesbrough, St Mary's RC Cathedral, Coulby Newham, Saturday 2 January at 1pm, followed by private inter-ment. Family flowers only. Dona-tions if desired to Butterwick Hospice, Stockton TS19 &XN.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS MARRIAGES & DEATHS are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

BIRTHDAYS Mr Arnold Allen, former

Chairman, UK Atomic Energy Authority, 74; Mr Gordon Banks, footballer, 61; Mr David Bedford, athlete, 49; Professor Sir Roy Caine, surgeon and immunologist, 68; Mr Geraint Davies, Controller, BBC Wales, 55; Mr Bo Diddley, singer, composer and guitarist, 70; General Sir David Fraser, former UK representative to Nato, 78; Sir Archibald Hamilton MP, 57; Sir John Houghton, former Chief Executive, the Meteorological Office, 67: Lord Howick of Glendale, a former managing director, Baring Bros, 61; Dame Rosalinde Hurley, microbiologist, 69; Mr Mark Kaplan, violinist, 45; Mr Timothy Mo, writer, 48; The Right Rev Peter Nott, Bishop of Norwich, 65; Mr David Prior MP. 44; Mrs Gwendolen Randall, Head, Framlingham College, 48; Sir Albert Robinson, former High Commissioner in the UK for

man, actress and comedienne, 39; Mr David G. Wadsworth, Chief Education Officer for Bedfordshire, 54; Sir David Willcocks, former Director, Royal College of Music, 79; Mr Clifford Williams, former associate director, the Royal Shakespeare company, 72.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Joseph Rudyard Kipling, author and poet, 1865. Deaths: Maurice Denton Welch, novelist and artist, 1948. On this day: Karol Woitvla (later to be Pope John Paul II) became Archbishop of Krakow, Poland, 1963. Today is the Feast Day of St Anysia, St Anysius, St Egwin and St Sabinus of Spoleto.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; 1st **Battation Coldstream Guards** mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buck-ingham Palace, 11.30am, band pro-vided by the Weish Cuards.

How to rescue angels from the tinsel THE TROUBLE with angels is that they do not easily fit into our world-

Robert Powell-Jones

view. Although it is said that in America more people believe in angels than God, and the New Age movement has now incorporated angels into its pantheon of divine beings, for most of us angels are creatures conjured up once a year to form part of the magic of Christmas: the angel on the top of the Christmas tree, a small girl playing Gabriel in the school Christmas play, hosts of singing angels, looking like choir-boys, on Christmas cards. Angels, in short, have been both commercialised and demythologised - we don't believe in them but its nice to have them around, like mince pies,

mistletoe, and Bing Croshy singing and dreaming of a White Christmas. Christmas has now become an association of images and ideas fixed in nostalgic tableaux of Santa Claus and elves, Jesus, his mother and angels, children sharing presents and happy families. In this mix angels serve the same function as red robins and snowflakes, lights on the tree, decorations in the hall - they are all backdrop to the serious business of over-eating and drinking.

But in the Bible angels are serious business. The first thing to notice about them, however, is that they rarely appear by name - Michael, Gabriel and the turncoat Lucifer are exceptions - and we know little about their appearance or houte couture. Michael and Gabriel are not depicted with wings, though the seraphim that

MEANINGS OF CHRISTMAS

ANDREW WALKER

Do not expect to find angels carolling in the realms of glory. But rather look for in the space between ourselves and God

hosts" around the throne of God are winged, as are the cherubim.

Occasionally we are given inklings that the cosmos is full of angelic beings doing God's will. In the book of Genesis Jacob dreams of a ladder reaching to the beavens on which angels ascend and descend. There are also of course fallen angels, doing their best to thwart God. In the Book of Revelation we hear of a war in heaven in which Michael and the angels defeat the Devil and his cohorts who are then cast out from God's presence.

Usually, however, with notable exceptions, the good angels in the Bible either appear as announcers of God's will, or as creatures who praise and worship him. What we might call the more magical activity of angels with the world (much loved by Hollywood) are more to he found in the Apocrypha (notably "Tobias and the Angel") than in shout "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of the canonical scriptures.

What is interesting about the Christmas narratives of the hirth of Jesus is that we read both of announcing angels and praising ones. Talking of angels generically, the great Protestant theologian Karl Barth, once claimed that angels are "onto-logically weak". By that he meant that they are not so important in themselves, but significant only as messages from God. In the gospel of Matthew, for example, Joseph is assured by an angel in a dream that it is right for him to marry Mary eveo though she is pregnant. Later, also in a dream, he is warned by an angel to flee with his wife and child to Egypt to escape the wrath of Herod. The angels in these reports have nothing to say on their own account hut are important only as heavenly postmen who deliver messages on time to the right person in the right place.

Greater angelic engagement can be found in St Luke's gospel where we read that God sent the angel Gabriel to Mary in Israel to prepare her for the divine conception. This was not just a courtesy call, but a wooing of Mary by God via an emissary who waits for Mary's consent before, as it were, he takes her answer back to God. In the Orthodox Church there is a sense that the whole of creation is hushed as it waits upon the reply of the girl who will freely choose to become the mother of God.

In the second chapter of Luke we have a remarkable passage where an angel appears in the heavens with a multitude of supporters, not to tell the world about the hirth of God hut to announce it privately to a small group of Shepherds. The Kontakion of the Orthodox Church for Christmas Day depicts the invisible and visible world joining together in wonder and praise at the miraculous hirth: "Angels and shepherds sing glory . . . since for our sake hath come as a newborn child he

who from all eternity is God". In the Orthodox Church angels continue to be taken seriously outside the Christmas season. From childhood members are encouraged to talk to their guardian angel as helper and protector of their bodies and souls. To the Orthodox faithful angels are not so much messages, or messengers, but beavenly intermediaries, like the saints, who continually pray for us and commune with God. Talking to angels is not necessary for salvation, nor is it a compulsory component of Orthodox life; it is simply a normative practice that proceeds oo the belief in God's good creation and His bounty and providence for the world. Angels in other words are naturally accepted as part of the created order and are no more odd than the existence of human beings or inanimate matter.

It is when we see the heavenly host in this light that its value becomes apparent. The ridiculous glitzy angelic confections of the commercial Christmas we can do without. But assistance in traversing the space between ourselves and God is something we need now as much as ever.

Dr Andrew Walker is the Director of the Centre for Theology & Culture King's College London, and a lay member of the Orthodox Church

Post Gazette announcements to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, telephone 0171-293 2012 or fax to 0171-293 2010. Please give a daytime telephone number.

Rhodesia and Nyasaland, 83;

jumper, 41; Miss Tracey Ull-

Mr Nick Skelton, show

Is this justice or revenge?

Poland wants to extradite a Holocaust survivor, now living in Oxford, for the alleged murder of a wartime hero. By Adam LeBor

his is a story about Communism and patriotism; justice and retribution and the historical ghosts that for 50 years lay under the permafrost of the Soviet bloc. Now the ice has melted, these spectres have returned. For globalisation now encompasses not just economies , but past torture and murder The British process of extradition that is now dealing with General Pinochet may soon be faced with a case from Poland. The protagonists here are two elderly Polish women: one Jewish, one Catholic.

The first is Helena Brus, formerly Wolinska, an elderly British pensioner nudging 80. She lives a quiet life, togeth-er with her husband Wlodzimierz Brus, a professor of Russian and fellow of Wolfson College, Oxford, But behind Mrs Brus's comfortable retirement lies another, far more brutal past. Decades ago she had another life, in Warsaw during the 1950s – the years of Stalinist oppression – when she years of Stalinist oppression – when she worked as a military prosecutor. Her critics accuse her of oiling the wheels of judicial murder. By issuing countless arrest warrants on charges of capital crimes in a totalitarian regime, they say she is as guilty as those who worked the gallows.

The Catholic is Maria Fieldorf-Carska.

The Catholic is Maria Fieldorf-Czarska, daughter of a heroic general in the Polish Home Army, the main wartime resistance movement, who was hanged in February 1953. It was Helena Wolinska, she says, who began the process of pre-determined judicial execution by issuing the arrest warrant for General Fieldorf. Now, over 55 years later, Mrs Fieldorf-Czarska believes years later, Mrs Fleidorf-Czarska beneves she has justice in sight. In a move that echoes the campaign to bring General Pinochet to justice, the Warsaw Military Court has ruled in favour of issuing an ar-rest warrant for Mrs Brus-Wolinska on charges of illegally extending General Fiel-dorf's detention. The next step will he for the Polish Justice Ministry to formally rethe Polish Justice Ministry to formally request her extradition.

Polish sources say that Britain has indicated it will not obstruct her extradition back to Poland on legal grounds. So the way is clear for another Pinochet-style episode: a clear-cut case of an aged former functionary of a totalitarian regime, apparently with blood on his or her hands, finally called to account for crimes of decades ago. The Brus case is part of a Europe-wide lem in this case is that the circumstances court concerning my alleged crimes does



ing from the war. The governments and corporations that profited so handsomely from the Holocaust, for example, know that denial is no longer adequate. Thus, the ar-

lesire for a reckoning for injustices aris- are more ambiguous. Mrs Brus is a Holo- not contain a true sentence." of most of her family in the death camps.

She argues that the attempt to extradite her is motivated not by a desire for justice. gument goes, the Right has admitted its hut rather vengeance and the anti-semisins and made recompense. Now it is the tism that still persists in Poland. In a state-Left's turn and former Communist func- ment made to the Polish press she said: tionaries such as Helena Brus. The prob- "The decision of the Warsaw military

The prospect of an elderly Jewess, a lifelong anti-fascist, being forcibly returned to stand trial in the land of Auschwitz and Trehlinka, where most of her family were killed, is troubling. But if elderly Nazis are still called to account for the Holocaust, why should aged Stalinists escape retribution?

The early 1950s were times of terror in eastern Europe. Stalin had installed bru-

attention and listen up. The

Westminster (as in

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Parliament is); Battersea

If this were the worst

off-the-wall. Call me a

grumpy, reactionary old

fusspot if you will hut the

number for an organisation

tal regimes run mainly by Communist exiles who had spent the war years in Moscow Stalin understood the value of hatred, and using the principle of "divide and rule" he made sure that many of these officials were Jewish.

Returning to a Europe ravaged by the war and the Holocaust, they unquestioningly followed Moscow's orders. Anyone considered to be a threat to eastern Eu-

rope's new Marxist order was eliminated. Moscow particularly feared Polish Home Army officers, believing that they could form the nucleus of an underground resistance. Armed resistance against the Soviets continued until 1947.

General August Emil Fieldorf was arrested in November 1950 and put on trial in April 1952, charged with attempting to "use force with the aim of changing the character of the Polish state". Later the accusations changed to that of being a "fascist-Hitlerite criminal". His fate was that of most of his fellow officers who returned to Poland - a brief trial in a kangaroo court, followed by the gallows. At 3.30pm on February 24 1953 the hangman at Warsaw's Mokotow prison looped a rope around his neck. The site of his grave is unknown.

Maria Fieldorf-Czarska was informed of his death three days later, when she visited the General Prosecutor's office, looking for news of her father. None of those involved in his arrest, imprisonment and death could have imagined that their actions would return to haunt them, thanks to the persistence of his daughter and the collapse of an ideology that once ruled haif a continent. Now 73, and living in Gdansk, Mrs Fieldorf-Czarska is a sprightly and hospitable woman. Her small flat is decorated with pictures of General Fieldorf, proud and upright in his Home Army uniform.

It was a letter she wrote in May 1996 to the Warsaw Military Prosecutor, asking for the names of those involved in her father's arrest and interrogation, that triggered the legal process for extradition of Helena Brus. Tdid this so that justice can be done and that the people who brought my father to his death should be held responsible. Helena Wolinska brought this case on fabricated evidence and my father was unlawfully arrested. She issued the arrest warrant as a military prosecutor and then gave the case to the general prosecutor."

The reply came October 1997, that the Warsaw Military Prosecutor had begun to investigate General Fieldorf's arrest. Most of the others involved are now dead, but Wolinska was traced to Oxford.

"She should confess that she is guilty and that what she did was unlawful. Whether or not she should go to prison is a decision for the courts. But if she confesses and asks for forgiveness, we should

Many happy returns for unwanted presents

Standing in a queue at Marks & Spencer to swap sweaters for socks is as traditional a Christmas pastime as carol-singing. By John Flynn

o the careless observer they look like another bunch of bargain-hunters enjoying a day at the sales. Only their slightly crumpled green plastic bags hulging with presents hint at a different purpose. Those do not look like new bags containing fresh purchases. Then you begin to wonder why they're all walking into rather than out of Marks and

Spencer early in the morning. Finally, you realise that you have chanced upon a special breed of shopper. Those for whom the period just after Christmas is a season of many happy returns. Inside those bags are the patterned sweaters,

bahydoll negligees and skimpy knickers which seemed so appropriate to the giver, yet appalled loved ones on Christmas morning.

M&S has a famously liberal policy of accepting returns. So liberal indeed that many of those who feel a cash gift is insulting, will have popped in just before Christmas, grabbed a few pairs of loud, diamond socks, confident that the money may he discreetly reclaimed at a later date. There is just that little problem of the long queue at the vast M&S refund section. Thank God there is a shop assistant dispensing boiled sweets to keep us good humoured. "Any chance of a gin?" I ask. Cindy Colfer is here in line at the Oxford Street store, victim of an illchosen Christmas jumper. "He got me a size 8," complains Mrs Colfer, 46, from South-east London. So what's the problem? "I'm a 12," she replies through clenched teeth. Well-

intentioned, seasonal flattery? But

Mrs Colfer is unimpressed: "He just picked it off the rack without looking and thought that would do." Poor Mr Colfer. He had been trying. He doesn't usually venture out alone to buy clothes for his wife. "He gives us the money and tells us to get something for Mum," pipes up

his daughter, Susan. "But he forgot Mum's hirthday this year, so he felt he had to go out on his own and make amends.

For his double error, Mr Colfer did get off more lightly than others. "She says they are too long in the leg," sighs Paul, 37, an accountant from south London. He shows me the black satin trousers he bought for his girlfriend. "I got the size right, 14. But I've heen told off for not knowing she's a 30 leg. I thought 311/2 would be OK. They looked fine to me. For a bloke it's all right if trousers go over their shoes. But I'm told women like to show their feet."

Paul has left his girlfriend at home in bed on the bank holiday to arrive as soon as M&S opened. Obviously chastised, he has promised to be back in time to hring her coffee in bed. No, he will not give his full name. "It's bad enough doing this

without everyone knowing about it." Maura, 30, and her husband, Chris, 30, are still arguing about the gold satin underwear he gave her. was disappointed," says Chris. "She had told me that those were the ones she wanted and then she changed her mind." Maura mutters

that she said no such thing. This underwear problem keeps

cropping up. Melissa Braiden, 32, from Eastcote in north-west London, is completing the annual ritual of returning a set of hra and knickers from her husband Sean. "I like what he chose," she says. "It's just that he always huys me underwear. I've still haven't used last year's lot."

But I do not find a single man returning a lover's present. There is the occasional wife bringing back a shirt that is too large. "He just gave me a look of resignation and said it was too big," confesses Linda Judd.

Disgruntled women far outnumber the men. Perhaps it is because women are such good present

givers, such great assessors of size. Or maybe we wisely keep quiet.

For some the return trip is just the inevitable and amusing result of poor communications. "Every year. my husband's sister gives him extra large vests which don't fit him and she gives me hlack tights which I don't like," declares Maud Jones, 694 Why don't they explain, I wonder.

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'Oh we wouldn't want to offend her." Tanya Nouril, 29, is clutching a thong from her mother. Husband, Michael, 28, is, as usual, returning his ma-in-laws traditional gift of socks. "These days, mum even wraps up the receipt," she says.

CLASSIFIED

Legal Notices

No. 6963 of 1998 IN THE HIGH COURT OF CHANCERY DIVISION IN THE MATTER OF FOREIGN AND COLONIAL INVESTMENT TRUST PLC AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN NOTICE IS FRIEDLY OVEN that a Potition was on 3 December; 1998 presented to Her Majessys High Coun of Justice for the confirmation of the reduction of the share capital of the abovenanced company from E278.590.006 divided into 2590.000 Cumulative Preference Shapes of El each and Preference Shares of £1 each and 1,103,600,000 Ordinary Shares of 25p each to £75,900,000 Ordinary Shares of 25p each to the 1,103,000,000 Ordinary Shares of 25p each by the cancellation of 2,600,000 Cummistive Preference

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Shares of £1 each. AND NOTICE 15 FURTHER GIVEN that the said pelation is directed to be heard before the Companies Court Registrar at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2 on 13 January 1999. ANY CREDITOR or starcholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the malong of an Order for confirmation of the said reduction should appear at the tuze of the hearing in person or by Counsel for

A COPY of the said Petition will be lumeshed to any such person requirin the same by the underments solutions on payment of the regu Dated the 13th day of Dece NORTON ROSE

Kempson Honse PO Box 570 London EC3A 7AN Solicitors for the Company NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the register of members of the staid Company will be closed in respect of the Cumulative Preference States of

t I each from 6.00pm on Thursday, 1 ed Office: Registered Office: Exchange House, Primrose Street ondon EC2A INY By order of the Bran

No.6964 of 1998 IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE CHANCERY DIVISION IN THE MATTER OF OLD MUTUAL SOUTH AFRICA AND IN THE MATTER OF THE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN ant a Petition was on 3rd becember 1998 presented to Her tajesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the reduction the share premium account of the above-named Company by the cancellation of an amount equal to f22,000,000 standing to the credit of the share premium account. AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Companies Court Registrar at the Rayal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2 on 13th January 1999. ANY CREDITOR or Shareholder of the said Company desiring in appose the making of an Order for mation of the said reduction ould appear at the time of the

ring in person or by Counsel for A COPY of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person equiring the same by the under-mentioned solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same. Dated the 18th day of December 1996

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23: DIRECTORY ENQUIRIES BY HESTER LACEY



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that sounds a bit like the one I requested is in fact not the same as getting the And why does Mark or

number I actually need. Lynne or Sarah or David or whoever is Misinformer of the Moment keep giving out that nonsense about needing a specific town to do a search? For anyone fobbed off in their efforts to find a number by this blatant fib, stand no nonsense: if you firmly request a national search it

will be done. It is excruciating to get a charming "Sorry to keep you waiting" from your Enquiries Person hecause it means they are about to activate that most insulting

of recorded messages: "Sarreh The nember you requaire is net available. Sarreh." Sarreh indeed. Ha. Not as sarreh as you'd he if you were here in the room with me, trying to convince me that Asda's head office/the NSPCC/the

British Library doesn't have a telephone. The worst of all this is that you cannot win. Driven heyond endurance when Directories failed to come up with the number for my favourite local restaurant, 1 looked it up in the phone

book and called them back. You said it didn't exist, but it's here in front of me in black and white," I said triumphantly. "I want a

refund for the call, and for this one I'm making now." "It's not on our list," said a noticeably unapologetic Enquiries Person. "What you pay for is the search,

not us finding the number" So there you have it: possibly the only service that exists where you still have to pay even if they can't come up with the goods. Imagine the great husiness opportunities if we

could all do the same. "I'm afraid I can't cater for your party next week, that'll be £300."

"Sorry, we don't stock the dress you want: hand in your £49.99 at the till." How do they get away

Size isn't everything

Neither the National nor the RSC had a great 1998. In fact, nearly all this year's theatrical highlights came from more unexpected venues. David Benedict pulls out some plums, while Dominic Cavendish clears a path through the fringe









Clockwise from above: Kevin Spacey in 'The Iceman Cometh': David Bradley in 'Phèdre'; Una Stubbs in 'Twelfth Night', and Phyllis Nagy, writer of 'Never Land'

Mystic Meg to predict that Kevin Spacey will bag the Olivier award for his completely magnetic performance as Hickey in The Icemnn Cometh. Of course, he was oo to a winner from the off. Hickey gets the higgest hulld-up in world drama - for an entire hour the rest of the cast sit around yakking about what a great guy he is and now they can't wait for him to arrive.

But Spacey did far more than cruise in on star status. He rode the wave of anticipation like a champion surfer and for the next three hours, with a host of meticulous performances surrounding him, the audience was glued.

ductions with her Told By An Idiot company giving a shimmering jewel of a performance as the yearning upper-class daughter in Mr

the noses of Sean Foley and Hamish McColl – aka The Right Size.

Indeed, some of the year's best acting came in overlooked roles. Jessica Turner brought unlooked for depths and delicious comic flair to What You Get and What You Expect at the Lyric Hammersmith: very sharp and very funny.

Quite rightly, everyone applauded the Almeida's bravery in takir Racine into the shark-infested West End, but most people were so busy being awed by Jonathan Kent's beautiful productions and their starry leading players that few recognised the excellence of David Bradley. His riveting performance as Theramene in Phedre was a mas-Hayley Carmichael confirmed terclass in relaxed understatement.

He barely raised his voice; he just He barely raised his voice; he just stood his ground and let the richly wrought images of Ted Hughes's translation spring to terrifying life.

There was acting of similar depth

devastatingly compassionate portrait of a French family hurtling towards disaster made huge demands of its actors who progressed from farcical high comedy to a hearthreaking conclusion as the family made peace with itself. Michelle Fairley shone with self-possession, Anthony Calf brought rare humilty to his role, and almost a year after seeing it the tragic g Sheila Gish still hurns bright. Watching her battling between the con-soling fictions of self-delusion and a true understanding of love in the passionate final act was simply

> moods of Nagy's text. There was equally bold writing in the widely misinterpreted The Play

overwhelming. Steven Pimlott's pro-

duction - returning next year - was

also graced by an extraordinarily ef-

fective (and almost completely un-

noticed) design by Mark Thompson

which echoed the atmospheres and

ou don't have to be Puntila and His Man Matti and al-Mystic Meg to pre-most stealing the show from beneath at the Royal Court. Phyllis Nagy's other play this year, this suffered from "reviewers' baggage" whereby preconceptions coloured the responses to the plece. Several commentators clearly expected Edward Albee to serve up a play in the same style as Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? and then reprimanded him for not doing so. Either that, or they criticised the subject matter - the moral responsibilities bening naving children – and not the play itself. Pardon me, that's not criticism, it's censorship.. Howard Davies's scrupulous production featured beautifully calibrated performances all round with a frankly hilarious Frances de la Tour matching blissful comic timing with truthful resolve to a remarkable degree.

The surprise of the year also came courtesy of the Never Land team, Pimlott and Thompson, who spun straw into gold with Dr Dolittle. With its drab score and bald hook, no one would he foolish

enough to claim that this was the musical of the year, but even cynics were stunned by its beguiling warmth and larkiness, the direct result of Pimlott and Thompson's invention and execution.

The other outstanding collaboration was between director James Macdonald and designer Jeremy Herbert on Sarah Kane's now notorious Cleansed. Their pristine realisation of Kane's disturbing images was an unequivocal and nectheatre. Furthermore, although it a washout, Michael Grandage proved to he box-office poison. Cleansed was a timely example of a theatre staging the unique vision of its playwrights in the teeth of commercial pressure. Thanks to its unheralded Young People's Theatre, the Court also wound up with the debut of the year in Christopher Shinn's astonishingly tender and eliptical state-of-the-nation play Four, Shinn, 23, isn't merely promising: he's the real thing.

Cheek by Jowl went out on a high with a stunning Much Ado About Nothing, the only time I have ever seen all the play's elements fused into a glorious whole. Along the way, director Declan Donnellan made a star out of Matthew McFadyean whose hilarious and touching Benedick was only matched by his Charles Surface in Donnellan's superb The School for Scandal, the finest RSC show in a frighteningly long time. Then, just as the rest of essary testament to the power of live the Shakespearean year looked like directed Twelfth Night at Sheffield Crucible. Brimming with unforced humour, this carefully cast, fleet, fresh and superbly spoken production was done on four weeks rehearsal putting to shame the disaster which was Sean Mathias's Antony and Cleopatra, which had twice Grandage's rehearsal period and hudget. The National almost made up for that with Trevor Nunn within the large-scale subsidised and Susan Stroman's veritable ex- companies. Time to take stock.

humation of Oklahoma! Anthony Ward's eye-widening design played no small part in its success. Yet surprisingly there was competition for the coveted award for Best Covered Wagons oo the London Stage from the ludicrously enjoyable Yee-Hnw!!, 1998's only "camp, cross-dressing cowboy musical", which had a selfout run at the Rosemary Branch. "Sing and dance/ For no particular reason", whooped the chorus. Yessiree. They share my Best Musical and Funniest Night of the Year awards with the frankly insane filmnoir pastiche The Betrnyol of Nora Blake at the tiny Jermyn Street Theatre. The opening number courtesy of the movie Laura - was entitled "Amnesia", but, to coin a phrase, I remember it well.

There is, however, a worrying theme to this. Theatre is alive, but rarely in the expected places. Almost none of these highlights happened

Go on, live dangerously...

INEVITABLY LOOKING back, there are regrets. Shows I wish I'd seen. Shows would gladly have triggered a security alert to extricate myself from (oh, for a mobile phone during Eyam, the Bridewell musical set during the Plague). There were more misses than hits - even though the selection of productions covered was weighted in favour of the most promising. Hardly surprising, you might think: if the term "fringe theatre" signifies anything, it is a peripheral space where artists have the prerogative to fail as well as the opportunity to prove themselves. Judging by what was on offer this 12-month, though, much of the failure stems from over-cautiousness. The spirit of risk-taking and innovation is scarcely to be seen.

If you wanted memorable new plays in '98, you could look further afield than the Bush or the Royal Court, hut you had to keep your eyes peeled. Katie Hims's The Breakfast Soldiers made a good early impression at the rejuvenated Finborough. This sprightly comedy captured, with a mischievous hint of pastiche, the daffy awkwardness of two upright and uptight sisters sharing a house in the wake of the First World War, a co-dependence poignantly soured by the passage of time. Rosalind Philips' and Verity Hewlett's performances, minutely relaying the neuroses caused by unacted-upon desire, remain, for me. the year's most welcome surprises.

David Lewis' first full-length work, Sperm Wars - a frequently hilarious. left a powerful aftertaste. Stephen though overly farcical, eavesdrop on the mutual recriminations of a childless couple - gave the Orange Tree's excellent new ensemble something to run Chinese take-away facing an unget their teeth into apart from solid rewals. Nick Green's Her Alabaster Lin, first seen at the grossly underrated White Bear in Kennington, boasted some startlingly idiosyncratic brutality inflicted oo a lone male: os-



The tirelessly physical Frantic Assembly performing 'Flesh'

piece slid into a mordant vision of a society whose key players are pathologically incapable of tolerating the existence of stand-alone individuals.

There were other slices of life that Clark's Take-Away - presented by Mu-Lan at the Lyric Studio, Hammersmith - was a touching portrait of a familycertain future. Jack Shepherd's Holf Moon, presented at the Southwark Playhouse, was a gripping fly-on-thewall study of raddled, hickering bohemians in a Fitzrovian watering hole ing now fully deserves its tag as "the

tensibly an ornate gangster turn, the bined a vibrant authenheity with an elegiac sense of eras at an end. Both reaffirmed the value of intimate theatre spaces; neither could be said to point the way forward, though.

To see moulds being broken and recast, the place to go was the BAC, that, after four years under the aegis of Tom Morris, has become something of a phenomenon. Readers may scratch their heads in wonder at the frequency with which the acronym of the Battersea Arts Centre appears but with 300 companies passing through this former town hall in 1998, the huildduring the Falklands War. Both com-

ply not charging rental, the BAC has

opened the doors to a whole generation of performers and there's been a stampede of talent. In the recent past, it has provided a launch-pad for the now universally championed Improbable Theatre and

The Right Size, both of which vaulted into the mainstream with the deliciously nasty Shockheaded Peter and the huoyant Mr Puntila and His Man Matti. This year, there was some typically astute programming, which brought established artists back into the fold, and highlighted the strengths of unknowns. The In the Dark season Tunnel Vision, ICA, London (0171-930 this summer - which forced the au- 3647), 11-13 January

dience to supply the visuals with their imagination - may have been partly horne out of a need to keep the costs of this underfunded centre down, but the likes of Theatre de Complicite and Improbable leapt at the opportunity to get involved. The season was so popular with performers and punters, it returns next year.

The even greater success of the BAC's contribution to The British Festival of Visual Theatre in October - 70 per cent of seats sold for the 100odd performances, most of which flitted by too fast to get critical coverage - suggests that once a venue has secured the public's trust, a micro-cli-

mate of innovation develops.

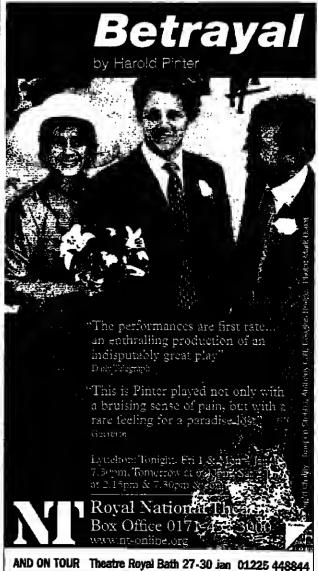
Two undoubted highlights were Michael Wynne's Sell Out, a bruisingly accurate description of the fickle loyalties of twentysomethings performed by the tirelessly physical Frankc As-sembly, and Tunnel Vision, a tragicomic puppet-show from Faulty Optic that portrays the whole world as a cross hetween a concentration camp and a theme park with bi-tech and lotech wizardry.

By this time next year, you'll probably be sick of hearing about these two companies. The risky ventures of 1998 become the safe bets of 1999, while the plodding revivals and wannahe West End musicals are simply forgotten. A critic can take very little credit for this process, beyond helping to point the public in the right direction. If you haven't yet done so, make it your resolution to beat a path to Battersea.

'Take-Awny' tours to Liverpool, Brighton and Manchester in April 1999; 'Sell Out' is touring the UK to April (booking: 01792 774888); 'Sperm Wars' is at the Orange Tree, Richmond (0181-940 3633), 1-13 February:



Less is more: Get a fashion make-under for the New Year



A make-over? That's so over

It's a chic, subtle way to get a new look without spending too much at the beauty counter. Meet the make-under. By Melanie Rickey



Janet Jones, 53, surveyor for Thames Water (before, above), after, wearing black shirt £105, by Ghost, from Diverse, 294 Upper Street London N1 (0171-359 8877. Ghost enquiries 0181-960 3121). Compact base 03, £15; loose powder C7, £12.50; brow-colour beige, £8; purple eyeshadow 530 pearl, £8; white brow-highlighter 100, £8; brown/black mascara, £10; nude 850matt lip colour, £10; nude lipliner, £8



Diana Pepper, 36, bride-to-be (before, above), after, wearing black long-sleeved top, £155, by Ghost, from Diverse, as before. Compact base 3, £14.50; loose powder 2, £12.50; Blonde brow-colour, £8; white brow-highlighter 100, £8; purple 500 matt eyeshadow as upper-lid liner, £8; blue 630 matt eyeliner, £7; brown/black mascara, £10; Beige 80 pearl cheek colour, £10; nude 850 matt lip colour, £10





Helen Georghiou, PA. 23 (before, above, after, wearing black polo-neck jumper, £30, from Gap, branches nationwide, enquiries 0800 427 789. Base 05, £14.50; beige 800 matt eyeshadow, £8; yellow 230 pearl eyecolour, £8; Brown 940m wet eyeliner across upper lashes, £8; black/brown mascara, £10; purple 530s lipstick, £10; gold 20 lipgloss, £8.50; beige 800 matt cheeks, £10





eveshadow, £8: brown mascara, £10: neutral 110 lipgloss, £8.50 All make-up by Ruby & Millie at selected Boots. Photographer: Trish Morrissey/ Make-up: Ruby Hammer assisted by Christine Gaunt/ Nails: Sue Fitouri, The Untouchables/ Hair: Craig Mason, Toni & Guy/ Fashion Assistant: Amy Jones



power of the make-over. If not in a magazine or newspaper, then most definitely on just-axed morning television show Style Challenge. This, and other daytime shows, have popularised the notion that most people need a team of experts to "make-over" their dull looks into those worthy of a second glance.

This idea may work well on TV, hut for real life, forget it. In fact for 1999, as we say goodbye to Style Challenge, it is time to proclaim the make-over as, well, over The "make-under" is bere.

The first known use of the term "makeunder" came from an off-beat make-up column in New York-based fashion magazine Jane, which launched in 1997. Each month a Jane journalist takes to the streets to find a woman who literally piles it on - like Dorian Green in Birds of a Feather, but worse. Their examples are hilarious and have become cult reading: imagine a bad perm with growing-out highlights combined with goth/cheerleader makeup. Lip-liner is brown, lipstick is frosted pink. Blusher

veryone has witnessed the looks like a bruise, eyebrows are drawn in, eyeshadow has been applied with a trowel. What's really scary is that this woman thinks sbe looks great.

The make-under process involves scrap-ing the make-up off, and then reapplying it in a similar, but more chic, way. The hair is also cut to enhance the facial features. The results are always fabulous, but subtle, and suitable for real life.

Fast forward to October. The new Selfridges beauty room opens to the public, and one of its glossy parlours is inhabited by Ruby & Millie, the new range developed by Ruby Hammer, (top make-up artist) and Millie Kendall, (make-up addict).

Guess what Ruby & Millie were promoting? Yep, the concept for the make-

under had arrived in the UK. Ruby Hammer had been nurturing the make-under idea for two years. "We had the idea when we began to develop our range in 1996," she says. "We were at one of those seminars which predicts future trends, when the man giving a talk men-tioned make-unders. Me and Millie just looked at each other and thought 'spooky'."

When their Boots-backed range finally launched in June this year, with its perspex and silver user-friendly packaging (designed by jeweller Sheila Teague from duo Wright & Teague), affordable prices (nothing is more than £15) and approachable colours, Ruby & Millie were firm believers in the make-under.

But before we begin our own make-unders, Ruby reminds us that "a makeunder is not a no make-up look".

"It is about refining and improving, or toning down. It is about using less to achieve more. I'm not asking people to buy ten products when two will do. I am a consumer as well as a husinesswoman."

All of the women who agreed to take part were looking to change their day-to-day look. And all with the exception of Laura Garrett who, at 16, doesn't even need makeup, wanted to become sleeker, chic-er version of their former selves. At our request, they all arrived wearing their usual everyday make-up

Ruby started by discussing the way make-up is applied. Laura Garrett had her complexion evened out with a few dabs of

concealer, but no foundation was used. applied last Lips and cheeks were left sub-"She's got lovely skin. Why use it if it's not needed?" said Hammer Her lips were enhanced with gloss, and her eyes were light-

ly lined. That was it. Diana Pepper was keen to get some advice for her forthcoming wedding day in February. "At my age, it's time to re-evaluate my regime," sbe said. Diana's usual make-up is hlack mascara - "I never use eyeliner because my eyes are too deep-set" - hrownish lipstick, Clarins liquid founda-

tion and loose powder on the T-zone. Ruby immediately advised ber to use a green cream to tone down her flushed cheeks. "Just lightly dab it," she said, " if you can see it on the skin, you've used too much. Once that's done, you can do pretty much anything, and it's time you wore

some eveliner." "She has incredible aquamarine eyes," continued Ruby as she set to work on Diana with navy eyeliner across the upper lids, and a lighter hlue on the lower lid. A highlighter stick was also used to hring out the contour of the brow, and the eyebrows themselves were shaded. Mascara was

tle, leaving the eyes transformed, and the hair was softened into a neater shape.

Diana was over the moon. "I absolutely love it. I would never have thought my eyes could look this good. Ruby was so quick, and a hit bossy, hut that's good. All I need to buy now is some eyeliner, shadow, and highlighter, and I can probably do it myself for the wedding."

Helen Georghiou needed a make-up lesson and a few slight changes. "I've never even thought about how to apply make-up before," sbe said, "I just put it on." Ruby removed ber everyday slick of Body Shop foundation, Oil of Ulay mascara, brown eyeshadow and orangey lipstick from Estee Lauder, and again went to work on the eyes. "She doesn't do anything with them," said Ruby, "I gave the eyes a flash of gold across the lids, some light shadow, and a wet eyeliner to brush across upper and lower lids. She's got a lovely warm skin tone because she's half Greek, and she hides it under foundation. Why? I warmed it up with a light blush, and offset it with a purpleybrown lipstick and gold lipgloss."

It wasn't a mind-boggling transform tion, but Helen was nonetheless very pleased, and surprised. "I can't believe how little make-up it took. I feel like I'm hardly wearing any, yet I look totally different."

Janet Jones admitted that she slaps her make-up on at 5.30am every morning. "I have to be at work at 7am, and I try to retain my femininity. I last changed my make-up nine years ago. Since then, I've lust weight in my face, and developed rosier cheeks." Ruby applied green cream to even out the skin tone, but not too much - "her natural flush means we don't need blusher" - and softened the skin tone with a warm base, loose powder, and used the miracle highlighting stick on the upper cheeks and brow. Highlighting stick is the best new make-up product around, she says.

She finished off by working around the eyes, to hring out their green colour, and then lined them softly. "My main objective with Janet was to work with her skin tone, and hring out ber eyes. Everything is subtie. That is what a make-under is about. Everyone here could go out on the street, and look good but not overdone."

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1999: It's fashion, Jim, and almost as we predicted it

We are about to reach the imagined era, and fashions, of Buck Rogers, Barbarella and Flash Gordon. Trendsetters born in the 1950s, 1960s and early 1970s recall for Melanie Rickey their childhood visions. And they weren't too wide of the mark

Max Clifford, publicist "As a youngster in the 1950's I read a comic called The Eagle [with] Dan Dare who wore what now looks like a tracksuit. He was a spaceman, 200ming around the universe saving people, and I thought his costume looked comfortable and easy. I was nine or ten then and all I wanted to do was play football. As a kid I wanted to get things on as quickly as possible and get out into the streets. Now I live in tracksuits when I'm not in the office, as I play a lot of sport." Reflected trends: sportswear as

everyday attire Labels: Nike, Adidas

Elspeth Gibson, fashion designer "I thought that by 1999 everyone would look the same and be dressed in all-mone metallic outfits - very futuristic, very glamorous, and very hi-tech. What comes to mind is the scene in

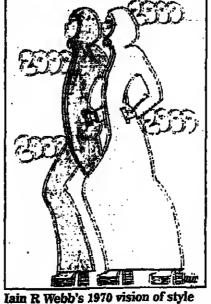
Barbarella when Jane Fonda floats around in a silver/white space suit." Reflected trends: 1970s glam rock revival (in silver); cyber punk, androgyny, hi-tech fabrics Labels: Ad Hoc, Versace, Issey Miyake, Buffalo, Prada Sport

Andrew Groves, fashion designer "I grew up with images of white catsuits in my head - very clinical, like something out of 2001, and very hi-tech with people living on pills. I think Bladerunner got it right with... the future having no connection to the past. I imagined we'd all be a Space Family Robinson, but it's never going to happen. Similarly I always thought that, by 1999, men and women would all look the same, very unisex and blonde, for some reason. It's never going to be like that either Clothes are an identity, not a uniform."

Reflected trends: androgyny,

sportswear, hi-tech fabrics, minimalism Labels: Courreges, Prada Sport, Jil

Jain R Webb, fashion director Elle "In my second year at the John Gaunt Grammar School in Wiltshire Icirca 1970, when I was 12) there was a competition to design a school uniform for the year 2000. I designed a unisex uniform (right); all-in-one hooded zipfront outfits worn with matching platform boots. At the time I worshipped The Angels on Gerry Anderson's Captain Scarlet, and was a big fan of Space 1999. Our blazers were bottle green, so I chose two different shades of green (lime for the girls and pea for the boys). Looking back it's remarkable bow skinny and sexless the drawings are - the boy has no obvious genitalia - but then I guess I was young and sex was still a Mysteron to me." Reflected trends: androgyny, hi-tech



Labels: Prada Sport, Jil Sander, Louis Vuitton. Dirk Bikkembergs, YMC, **Helmut Lang**

fabrics, luxury sportswear, utility

Harriet Quick, editor, Frank

"I was convinced as a kid that 1999, if the bomb had not dropped, would see me turn 31, married with at least two children (wrong and wrong again), living in an igloo-shaped abode with Jimmy Saville do-everything chairs eating freeze-dried food, travelling by travellator and wearing pale-coloured clothes with rainbow stripes and zips. The latter, inspired by the clones in Locan's Run, has not transpired though I figure the new Prada Sport collection comes pretty close." Reflected trends: sportswear as everyday attire, utility, hippy, hi-tech Labels: Prada Sport, Helmut Lang,

Nicolas Ghesquiere, head designer, Balenciaga

"From about age seven or eight I have been very attached to science fiction movies. Films such as Stor Wors, Barbarella, Bladerunner and Alien and the outfits that go with them have represented for me what I have imagined for future fashion. Important fashion elements are protection from a bostile apocalyptic world, and items inspired by the children's toy. Playmobil, in which the 'clothing' is made of plastie and is removable. I also loved Princess Leia's hair in Star Wars. The mix between romance, innocence, and violence is intriguing. My favourite idea is in Barbarella, when (you can) wear anything just by clicking the fingers. Maybe one day!" Reflected trends: none so far Labels: Balenclaga

RESEARCH: SUSANNAH CONWAY

The great escape

A change in the law means less of your bequest need end up with the tax man. By John Whiting

he landed gentry have, over the past few decades, faded into genteel – and sometimes poverty-stricken - obscurity. But shire toffs were given cause to celchrate earlier this month, after the Inland Revenue suffered a rare defeat in the House of Lords, in a case which could reseue hundreds of large estates from crippling inheritance tax duties.

The Lords found in favour of taxpayers in an argument over a disouted inheritance tax hill that could have cost the estate of Lady Ingram, a wealthy landowner hundreds of thousands of pounds. The unplications of the Ingram judgement are clearly important - scores of similarly-affected landowners paid into a fighting fund to help pay for the legal battle waged by her descendants and their lawyers.

While few of us have the sort of estate that Lady Ingram or her supporters had, the decision in her favour has shown a way of solving a common problem. Lady Ingram's concern was that she wanted to give her house to her family. That, as is well known, is the hasic way of avoiding inheritance tax (IHT) - pass on your assets, survive for seven years, then there is no tax to pay. But this was ber home so what was she going to do if she gave It to her children? And given that this was no suburban semi but a large country house. Hurst Lodge, set m 61 acres of countryside, one can understand her wish to live out ber days there.

How about giving away the house but keeping the right to live there? Not good enough: the IHT rules have a nasty provision called GROBs -Gifts with Reservation Of Benefit. Giving something away but keeping part of it means that the tax will



While few of us have huge estates, the Lords' findings on inheritance tax address a common problem

North News & Pictures

gave away the house but stayed liv- licitor who promptly granted her a assets, with no spouse to leave their exploring the route and incurring ing there, she would be GROB'd unless sbe paid full market rent for the property - probably impractical. And few would want to give their house away without the definite right to stay on, leaving it up to their offspring to bave the final say - chil-

dren don't always do what you want! The idea of splitting the asset does start a train of thought. Shares can be split into an income stream (the dividends) and a capital asset: could the same thing work with a property? This was in effect what was done Sperate as if you hadn't given the asset away at all. So if Lady Ingram transferred the property to her so-

20-year lease to live in the property rent-free. The freehold was held in trust for her family.

The House of Lords has held that this route works to avoid the GROB rule. Lady Ingram bad, in effect, created two assets where one was before, passed on one of those assets, and gained an IHT advantage.

Sadly Lady Ingram is no longer with us to celebrate her triumph. She died in 1987. But she has left a legacy of value to others beyond her family. Anyone in a similar position to ber - probably a widow, living in a large house that is the major part of their least £70,000 - it might well be worth tered accountants.

wealth to - may be able to solve an IHT problem. (Anything left to the spouse is IHT-free.) The door has opened to show a way of passing on the property and reducing the IHT hurden. But this not something to do without professional advice. Inevitably, anything to do with property needs proper legal documentation so, as the TV shows put it, please don't try this one by yourself at home. However, if home does represent a large potential IHT burden - perhaps the majority of a £400,000-plus

some professional fees.

There will be risks. Getting the paperwork right is crucial to minimise the dangers of the plan not working. And it must be borne in mind that this might be a door that is only hriefly open - it may well be one that is slammed shut again by the Chancellor in next year's Budget, or even earlier if be sees a flurry of Lady Ingram imitators exploiting her legacy.

Power of ten

A FEW years ago, Ken Ferguson had bought a high income bond paying 10 per cent per annum, with any capital return reliant on the stockmar-ket not falling over the term. He telephoned, not because he was unhappy with the product but because he was thinking ahead knowing that his 10 per cent income would be stopping in the not too distant future.

Ten per cent income is a hit of a magic figure and a level of income that most investors have been used to for a number of years. With interest rates falling, many clients face a bit of a shock when looking to rein-

"What I am looking for," said Ken Ferguson, "is a product that will pay me 10 per cent net income each ear with little risk to the capital." "I am sorry, but I am going to have

to disappoint you," I said. "That rate of return on that type of product simply does not exist anymore." Ken said that he had never con-

sidered how the falling bank rate would affect some investment products. "Unfortunately," 1 explained. "they are all interlinked to a greater or lesser degree."

"So what options are open if there is not an identical product for me to go back to?" Ken asked.

I said: "Like all investment decisions, generating income is a question of risk versus return. Take risk-free investments with huilding societies. They are unlikely to offer more than 6.5 per cent gross at present, and as you are a taxpayer you will he liable to income tax. Interest rates are likely to fall further, and consequently the return on the huilding society will also reduce."

"That doesn't sound too attractive," replied Ken. "What about

"Well, they are worth looking at, Although the rates will fluctuate they tend to offer more than a huilding society, and as it is sensible to keep money in the huilding society for emergencies it is worth considering putting some of that money in a Tessa. The advantage of the Tessa is that interest is paid tax free. "If we move slightly up the risk

profile, you could consider a withprofit bond, such as the Prudential or Scottish Widows, and these will pay you 5.75 per cent and 6.75 per cent net reversionary bonuses at present. But it's still not as good as you are used to."

"Don't these tie me in for a long time?" enquired Ken.

"To an extent; but you have to realise that they are designed for the John Whiting is a tax partner at longer term - and that has to be at estate, which would imply IHT of at PricewnterhouseCoopers, char-least £70,000 - it might well be worth tered accountants. least five years. Historically with-profit bonds have given very com-advisers (0800 374413)

THE FIXERS:



TIM COCKERILL

fortable returns; not exciting but

very steady and reliable." Ken Fergusou said that the drop in income from these investments would prove a problem after being used to 10 per cent.

"If you want a higher income the only uption is to go further up the risk scale. Perhaps you should consider a corporate bond fund, such as the M&G High Yield Bond which has a gross yield of 7.85 per cent or the Aberdeen Fixed Interest Fund which yields 8.5 per cent gross, both of which can go into a PEP if you cannot PEP them then obviously you are liable to tax, which hrings their returns down to that offered by withprofit honds.

"Is there nothing that pays 10 per cent or more?" asked Ken.

There is a class of share issued hy split investment trusts which henefit from all of the income that trust generates." I began. "These are really quite high-risk geared investments, meaning that they exaggerate market movements in both an upward and downward direction.

The new CGU Monthly High Income investment trust is producing over 10 per cent and soon to be launched the Jupiter Enhanced Income investment trust aim to pay 10.25 per cent. gross. They are not the most straightforward investments, and you should limit exposure to a small part of your portfolio."

"So my choices are: accept that I'll get a lower income, or increase my risk?" "Correct." I said.

After a couple of days to think it over. Ken requested a prudeot strategy, and I recommended a diversified selection of investments maximising his tax benefits through Tessas and Corporate Bond PEPs. Like many investors, he has had to lower his expectations of the returns from income investments.

Tim Cockerill is the managing director of Whitechurch Securities, independent financial

Taxing time for Europe

More vital problems need to be solved. By Ian Barlow and David Evans

t is not often that tax policies of other countries form A the lead story in the UK media. But a sense of proportion needs to be brought to the furore over EU tax harmonisation that has dominated the run-up to this weekend's introduction of the euro. First of all, what does har-

monisation mean? People seem to assume that equalising the corporate tax rates means companies would pay same tax in each state. This is a gross oversimplification, as the tax hases - the underlying system of calculating the profits on which companies pay their tax - would remain very different in each country.

To date there has been minimal progress in harmonising the direct tax systems of the EU's member states. In the early Nineties, the European Commission brought forward a number of directives designed to facilitate the operation of the single market and reduce double taxation - that is where companies end up paytax twice on the same prof-

Just two of these proposed directives were approved - the parent/subsidiary directive that reduces taxation on dividends. and the mergers directive which facilitates cross-border reorganisations, disposals and acquisitions. Other proposals for directives were dropped as it was not nossible to reach agreement between all the member states. More recently, as member

states focus on protecting their tax revenues, the Commission has found a more receptive audience to its exhortations to coordinate tax policy. France and Germany in particular, bave heen concerned to prevent encouraging member states companies establishing themselves in tax havens and reducing the tax payable at home. EU Tax Commissioner Mario Monti - who has taken a much



harmful in this context, espe-

cially if it applied only to foreign

companies or foreign income.

ed under the code of conduct -

chaired by the UK's own Dawn

Primarolo [Financial Secre-

tary at the Treasury, and MP for

Bristol South] - has now iden-

tified 82 low-tax arrangements

for husinesses within the EU

which might be harmful. Ten of

provisions, including special

measures for the film industry,

for ship operators, and for the

tax breaks provided by enter-

prise zones - but this has yet

The EU savings directive

has also been much in the

headlines. This proposes that

each member state introduce

either a minimum 20 per cent

withholding tax on payments of

interest to individuals in other

member states, or a require-

ment to report such payments

to the tax authorities in the

member state of the recipient.

to be confirmed.

these are reported to be UK

The working party establish-

Dawn Primarolo of the EU working party

for a few people, you condemn to financing activities might be the rest to a tax hell." As a result, in December 1997 EU Finance Ministers reached an agreement on a package of measures intended to combat harmful tax competition between member states.

The package consisted of these three elements: A code of conduct for business taxation. A proposal for a directive on

interest and royalties. A proposal for a directive on the taxation of interest income from savings - the savings directive.

The first, the code of conduct is perhaps the most interesting element of the package; it is designed to prevent "harmful tax competition" within the EU by to withdraw special tax regimes. These aim to attract businesses that are internationally mobile without affecting the general rate of business tax in the country. For example, in a country with a headline rate of and French governments - has tax of 40 per cent, a regime that tax of 40 p and rence governments - has said: "If you create a tax haven of ered a 10 per cent rate of tax not favour introducing a with-

mestic legislation, but would probably be happy with a reporting requirement, provided an exemption was introduced for Eurobond interest. Without an exemption, it is feared, there would be very harmful effects on the London Eurobond market, and the Government has stated that, unless adequate protection is introduced, it will veto the proposal. There is no reason to doubt their word. The code of conduct for busi-

holding requirement in do-

ness taxation does not go far enough for some. With EMU levelling the playing field in 11 member states, tax will be one of the few remaining areas in which countries can still compete: there is no prohibition in the code of conduct on lowering the national rate of business tax - Ireland has said it will a progressively lower its national rate to 12.5 per cent by 2003.

While some view competition as a bad thing, others heheve it encourages member states to have disciplined public finances, and provides a last remaining lever in running the economy within the Eurozone. However, given the political tensions, we are bound to see more headlines in the tabloids before long.

But in many ways, the current debate on tax harmonisation misses the point for business - the real concern is how barriers to doing business can be overcome and Europe can be a true single market? It is, for example, the inability to offset losses in one country against the profits in another, and the requirement to determine taxable profits according to the different tax bases in 15 member states that increase tax costs in the single market. These are the issues that the Commission must focus on - the current debate on tax rates will be of little or no help to business.

Ian Barlow is UK head of tax

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NEW FILMS

THE APPLE (SIB) (PG) Director: Samirah Makhmalbaf

Starring: Massoumah Naderi, Zahra Naderi Seventeen-year-old Makhmalhaf's precocious debut re-creates the true-life fortunes of Iran's Naderi sisters, raised in seclusion by their parents before being set loose by a social worker. Part docudrama, part rites-of-passage fable. The Apple is a luminous missive from a burgeoning Iranian film scene. West End: Metro, Renoir

ENEMY OF THE STATE (15)

Director: Tony Scott Starring: Will Smith, Gene Hackman

Will Smith's fall-guy DA teams up with Gene Hackman's pensioned-off Pentagon warhorse in s tale of political intrigue. A top-drawer cast weaves in and out of the hi-tech imagery and adrenalised chase scenes. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Hammersmith Virgin, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Camden Town. Odeon Kensington. Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End. Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, Screen on the Green, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea. Virgin Fulham Road

THE MIGHTY (PG) Director: Peter Chelsom

Starring: Sharon Stone, Gillian Anderson

Peter Chelsom's The Mighty is a stolid and rather predictable tale of two outcast kids in Cincinnati. Sharon Stone and Gillian Andersoo cope well in what basically amount to supporting roles. West End: Barbican Screen, Curzon Soho, Gate Notting Hill. Richmond Filmhouse, Screen on the Hill, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket

WHAT DREAMS MAY COME (15) Director: Vincent Ward

Starring: Robin Williams, Annabella Sciorra Along comes Christmas, and out comes What Dreams May Come; an over-glazed turkey with all the trimmings. Williams simpers as the dead chappie who leaves a cod-Impressionist heaven to rescue his suicide-bride (Sciorra) from a Gothic hell. Metaphysical conceits arrive with a heavy dusting of sugar. West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Haymarket, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch. Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

Xan Brooks

GENERAL RELEASE

See The Independent Recommends, right, West End: Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero

BABE: PIG IN THE CITY (U)

In the follow-up to Babe, knockabout comedy is kept to a minimum in favour of a bleak animatronic fairytale. West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero

THE MASK OF ZORRO (PG)

This swashbuckler gallops full-speed through 19th-century California in the company of Antonio Banderas's Hispanic do-gooder. West End: Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road

MULAN (U)

This has it all: pro-active heroine; strong father/daughter relationship; honour; nobility. It's also one of the most visually innovative movies that Disney has ever made. West End: Odeon Mezzanine, UCI Whiteleys, Warner Village West End

MY NAME IS JOE (15) See The Independent Recommends, right, West

End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Curzon Soho, Virgin Haymarket

THE NEGOTIATOR (15)

Samuel L Jackson and Kevin Spacey go head to head in this thrilling drama. West End: Odeon Marble Arch, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

OUT OF SIGHT 115)

See The Independent Recommends, right. West End: Empire Leicester Square. Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage. UCI Whiteleys, Virgin

THE PARENT TRAP (PG)

Disney reheats its 1961 heart-warmer in this story of twin sisters' efforts to reunite their parents. West End: Clapham Picture House, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, UCI Whiteleys. Virgin Chelsea

THE PRINCE OF EGYPT (U)

In planning his cartoon life of Moses, Dream Works honcho Jeffrey Katzenberg envisaged it "painted by Claude Monet and photographed by David Lean". The end result winds up as The Ten Commandments by way of Joseph and his Technicolor Dreamcoat. West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House. Elephant & Castle Coronet, Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage. Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero

RUSH HOUR (151 Rush Hour marries Jackie Chan with 8 LA backdrop, a jobbing Hollywood director and a wisecracking black comic in Chris Tucker's huckstering LAPD man. It's a hit and miss affair. West End: Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Orieon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage. Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

THE THREE BEST FILMS

Out of Sight (15)

This tale of love on opposite sides of the law knocks spots off every previous Elmore Leonard adaptation, and boasts in George Clooney and Jennifer Lopez the swooniest romantic pairing of the cinematic year.

This computer-animated comedy, voiced by a stellar cast, stars Woody Allen as worker ant "Z". who becomes an unlikely opponent

of the colony's totalitarian regime when he falls in with Princess Bakla (Sharon Stone).

My Name is Joe (15) This solid social-realist drama contains all that one would expect from 8 Ken Loach film humour, indignation, emotional sympathy - driven by Peter Mullan's intense performance as a recovering alcoholic.

ANTHONY QUINN



THE THREE BEST PLAYS

Mr Puntila and His Man

Matti (Albery Theatre) A well-deserved transfer for this Almeida hit. Comedy duo The Right Size are inspired casting for Brecht's tale of a split-personality

(Comedy Theatre) The Charles and Diana story (op to the divorce) presented by the National Theatre of Brent (all

landowner. To 9 Jan Love Upon the Throne two of them, left). Very funny and oddly touching. To 9 Jan

Martin Guerre (West

Yorkshire Playhouse) It's third time lucky for this much rewritteo Boublil/Schönberg musical. In Conall Morrison's starkly involving production, it finally emerges as a tighter, magnificent show. To 13 Feb

PAUL TAYLOR

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<u>CINEMA</u>

ABC BAKER STREET (0870-902 0418)

Baker Street
Babe: Pig in the City 1.20pm,
6.10pm The Prince of Egypt
1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.35pm What
Dreams May Come 3.40pm, 8.30pm

ABC PANTON STREET ABC PANTON STREET

(0870-902 0404) & Piccadilly Circus

Elizabeth 2.10pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm

The Last Days of Disco 1.10pm,

3.40pm, 6pm, 8.25pm Lock, Stock

& Two Smoking Barrels 1.10pm,

3.35pm, 6pm, 8.30pm A Perfect

Murder 1.10pm, 3.35pm,

form, 8.30pm 6pm, 8.30pm

ABC PICCADILLY (0171-287 4322 (from 1pm) Piccadilly Circus Hamam: The Turkish Bath 1,25pm, 3,50pm, 6,10pm, 8,35pm Slums of Beverly Hits 1,35pm, 3,50pm, 6,10pm, 8,45pm

ABC SHAFTESBURY AVENUE (0870-902 0402) & Leicester Square Texas Chainsaw Massacre 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.40pm, 8.55pm What Dreams May Come 1.05pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm

ARC SWISS CENTRE ABC SWISS CENTRE
(0870-902 0403) & Leicester Square
Angel Sharks 1.10pm, 3.10pm,
6.10pm, 8.20pm The Eel 1.10pm,
3.35pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm The
Governess 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.15pm,
8.35pm La Vie Revée des Anges
1.15pm, 3.35pm, 5.55pm, 8.15pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD (0870-902 0414) • Tottenham Court Road Babe: Pig in the City 1.10pm, 3.40pm Enemy of the State 1.05pm, 3.45pm, 6.25pm, 9.10pm My Name is Joe 6.30pm, 9.15pm The Prince of Egypt 1.15pm 3.55pm 6.50pm, 9.20pm 1.15pm, 3.55pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm

BARBICAN SCREEN (0171-638 8891) & Barbican The Mighty 3pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm The Prince of Egypt 3pm, 5.30pm, 8pm

CHELSEA CINEMA (0171-351 3742) ↔ Sloane Square On Connalt la Chanson 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.35pm

CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE (0171-498 3323] O Clapham Common Babe: Pig in the City 12,30pm Enemy of the State 6,20pm, Spm The Mask of Zorro r times The Parent 1pm, 3.45pm The Prince of Egypt phone for times What Dreams May Come 4.15pm, 9.30pm

CURZON MAYFAIR (0171-369 1720) Green Park Dancing at Lughnasa 4.30pm, 9pm The Philadelphia Story 2pm, 6.30pm

CURZON SOHO (0171-734 2255 (12pm-6pm) Leicester Square/Tottenham Court Road Casablanca 2pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.10pm Elizabeth 1.45pm, 6.45pm, 9.20pm The Mighty 1.15pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm My Name is Joe 4.30pm, 9.30pm

ELEPHANT AND CASTLE omes The Prince of Egypt phone for times What Dreams May Come

EMPIRE LEKCESTER SQUARE

6.30pm, 9pm GATE NOTTING HILL (0171-727 4043) • Notting Hill Gate The Mighty 4.45pm, 6.55pm.

HAMMERSMITH VIRGIN (0870-907 0718) & Hammersmith Babe: Pig in the City 12.40pm Enemy of the State 3pm. 6.10pm, 9.10pm The Mask of Zorro 12.00pm.

3pm, 6pm, 9pm The Parent Trac 12.10pm, 3pm The Prince of Egypt 12.15pm, 2.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm,

(0171-734 1506) ← Piccadilly Circus/Leicester Square The Apple (\$to] 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm Fire 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm CURZON MINEMA

(0171-369 1723) Hyde Park Corner/Knightsbridge Elizabeti 2.20pm, 6.40pm Fire 4.35pm, 9pm Elizabeth

NOTTING HILL CORONET (0171-727 6705) & Notting Hill Gate Enemy of the State 3pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm

ODEON CAMDEN TOWN
(08705-050007) ← Camden Town
Babe: Pig in the City 11.45am
Enemy of the State 12.15pm, 3pm,
5.50pm, 8.40pm The Mask of
Zorro 11.40am, 2.45pm, 5.40pm,
8.30pm The Parent Trap 12.10pm,
9.55pm, The Parent 2.55pm The Prince of Egypt 11.40am. 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 9pm Rush Hour 2.15pm, 4.30pm. 8.55pm Star Trek: Insurrection 6.45pm, 9.05pm What Dreams May

Come 5.55pm, 8.35pm **ODEON HAYMARKET** (08705-050007) O Piccadilly Circus What Dreams May Come 1.10pm. 3.35pm, 6.05pm, 8.40pm

ODEON KENSINGTON (08705-050007) & High Street Kensington Babe: Pig in the City 1.30pm. 3.55pm Enemy of the State 12.05pm, 3.10pm, 6.15pm, 9.20pm The Mask of Zorro 2.25pm, 5.40pm, 8.55pm The Parent Trap 1pm, 4pm The Prince of Egypt 12nonn, 2.25pm, 4.50pm, 7.15pm Bush Hour, 7.05pm, 9.40pm, Star Rush Hour 7.05pm, 9.40pm Star Trek: Insurrection 7.20pm, 9.50pm What Dreams May Come 1.30pm, 4.15pm, 7pm, 8.45pm

(08705-050007) ← Leicester Square The Mask of Zorro 11.40pm. 2.30pm, 5.25pm, 8.20pm ODEON MARBLE ARCH

ODEON MARBLE ARCH
(08705-050007)

Babe: Pig in the City 12.05pm
Enemy of the State 12noon,
3.05pm, 6.05pm, 9.05pm The Mask
of Zorro 11.45am, 2.50pm,
5.55pm, 9pm The Prince of
Egypt 12.30pm, 3.20pm, 6.10pm,
8.55pm Rush Hour 2.15pm,
4.40pm, 7.05pm Star Trek:
Insurrection 9pm What Dreams
May Come 5.55pm, 9pm

ODEON MEZZANINE (08705-050007) & Leicester Square Elizabeth 12.35pm, 3.05pm, 5.35pm, 8.20pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.25pm, 3.55pm, 6.20pm 8.45pm Les Miserables 3.30pm, 8.30pm Mulan 1.40pm, 3.50pm Ronin 5.55pm, 6.7pm There's Snake Eyes 1.05pm, 6pm There's Something About Mary 12.45pm, 3.15pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm

ODEON SWISS COTTAGE The Prince of Egypt 1pm, 3.25pm, 5.55pm, 8.25pm Rush Hour 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm Star Trek: Insurrection 6pm, 8.30pm What Dreams May Come 12.30pm, 3.50pm, 3.50pm 3.15pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm

ODEON WEST END PEPSI IMAX CINEMA

(0171-494 4153) Piccadilly Circus Everest 2.40pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.05pm T-Rexc Back to the Cretaceous (3-D) 11.30am, 1.35pm, 3.40pm, 5.45pm, 8pm, 10.05pm

PLAZA (0990-888990) ◆ Piccadlily Circus Antz 1.15pm, 3.30pm Babe: Pig in the City 12.45pm, 3.10pm, 5.30pm Rush Hour 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm Saving Private Ryan 7.50pm

RENOIR (0171-937 9402) & Russell Square
The Apple (Sib) 1pm, 2.55pm,
4.50pm, 6.45pm, 8.45pm On
Connait ia Chanson 3.45pm,
8.35pm The Philadelphia Story 1.25pm, 6.15pm

RITTY CINEMA (0171-733 2229) BR/& Brixton Antz 12.45pm, 2.45pm Babe: Pig in the City 12.25pm, 2.25pm, 4.25pm Enemy of the State 12.40pm, 3.20pm, 6.25pm, 9.10pm 12.40pm, 3.20pm, 6.25pm, 9.10pm The Mask of Zoro 12.40pm, 3.30pm, 6.15pm, 8.55pm The Prince of Egypt 12nonn, 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 9pm Rush Hour 7pm, 9.20pm Star Trek: Insurrection 4.35pm, 9.30pm La Vie Reuée des Anges 4.25pm, 6.55pm, 9.25pm 6.55pm, 9.25pm

SCREEN ON BAKER STREET

CREEN ON THE GREEN (0171-228 3520) ◆ Angel/Highbury & Islington Enemy of the State 2.40pm. 5.30pm. 8.20pm

SCREEN ON THE HILL (0171-435 3366) Belsize Park Left Luggage 4.40pm The Mighty 2.40pm, 6.50pm, 9pm

UCI WHITELEYS

(0990-888990) & Queensway Antz 11.30am. 2pm, 4pm Babe: Pig In the City 11.10am. 12.10pm. 11.30am. 2pm, 4pm Babe: Pig In the City 11.10am. 12.10pm, 1.40pm, 2.30pm, 4.20pm Enemy of the State 11.40am, 2.45pm, 5.40pm, 8.30pm The Mask of Zorro 12noon, 3.05pm, 6pm, 9pm Mulan 11am Out of Sight phone for times The Parent Trap phone for times The Prince of Egypt 11.20am 1.30pm 5.50pm 6.15pm Omes The Prince of Egypt 11.20am, 1.30pm, 5.50pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm Rush Hour 5.05pm, 7.20pm, 9.50pm Star Trek: tasurrection 6.40pm, 9.20pm What Dreams May Come 1.10pm, 4.10pm, 7pm, 9.40pm

VIRGIN CHELSEA (0870-907 0710) Sloane
Square/South Kensington
1.15pm Enemy of the State
2.15pm, 5pm, 8.45pm Out of Sight
8.30pm The Parent Trap 12.45pm, 3pm, 5.45pm Rush Hour 3.30pm, 6.15pm, 9.30pm What Dreams May Come 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm

VIRGIN FULHAM ROAD VIRGIN FULHAM ROAD
(0870-907 0711)

South
Kensington Babe: Pig in the City
12noon. 2.10pm, 4.15pm Elizabeth
2pm. 5.30pm, 8.20pm Enemy of
the State 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 5pm,
9.20pm The Mask of Zorro
12.20pm, 3.10pm, 6.10pm, 9.10pm
The Michael The Mask of 6.30pm The Mighty 1pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 8,45pm The Prince of Egypt 12.10pm, 2.15pm, 4.25pm, 6.40pm, 8,50pm Star Trek: Insurrection 6.30pm, 8.45pm

(0870-907 0712) Piccadlily Circus Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas 12.45pm. 3.20pm, 6pm, 8.35pm The Mighty 12.30pm, 3.10pm. 5.50pm, 8.25pm My Name is Joe 12.55pm. 3.30pm, 6.10pm. 8.45pm VIRGIN TROCADERO

(0870-907 0716) & Piccadilly Circus
Antz 12.20pm. 2.10pm, 4.10pm
Babe: Pig in the City 12.20pm,
2.20pm. 4.20pm Blada 6.25pm,
9pm The Negotiator 8.30pm Out
of Sight 12000n. 2.50pm, 8.30pm
The Prince of Empt. 12.50pm The Prince of Egypt 12.50pm, 3.20pm, 5.50pm, 8,10pm Rush Hour 12.10pm, 2.25pm, 4.40pm, 7pm, 9.20pm Star Trek: 9.20pm Star Trek: tion 6.15pm, 8.50pm insurrection

There's Something About Mary 6.20pm. Sport The Trainan Show 1pm. 3.30pm, 6.10pm What Dreams May Come 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 6pm, 8.50pm

Square Blade 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 7pm, 9.35pm The Exercist (25th 7pm, 9.35pm The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 3.55pm, 6.40pm, 9.25pm Lethal Weapon 4 1.10pm, 4pm, 6.50pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 9pm Mulan 11.40pm, 3.55pm The Negotiator 11.40am, 2.40pm, 5.40pm, 8.40pm A Perfect Murder 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.25pm, 9.10pm Rush Hour 12.50pm, 3.20pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm, 9.30pm What Dreams May Come 12.20pm, 1.50pm, 3.pm, 4.20pm, 5.30pm, 6.50pm, 8.20pm, 9.20pm,

CINEMA LONDON LOCALS

PARK ROYAL WARNER VILLAGE (0181-896 0066) & Park Royal Antz 11.30am, 1.30pm, 3.40pm, 5.50pm, 8pm Babec Pig in the City 10.20am, 12.30pm, 2.40pm, 4.50pm Blade 10pm, 12.40pm Enemy of the State 11am, 12noon, 1.45pm, 3pm, 4.30pm, 6pm, 7pm, 8.55pm, 9.50pm The Mask of Zorro 12noon, 2.50pm, 5.40pm, 8.30pm Mulan 10.10am The Parent Trap 11.10am, 1.55pm, 4.40pm, 7.30pm The Prince of Egypt 11am, 1.15pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm, 8ush Hour 11.05am, 1.25pm, 3.50pm, 6.50pm, 9.25pm, 10.10pm Small Sol-PARK ROYAL WARNER VILLAGE 6.50pm, 9.25pm, 10.10pm Small Soldiers 11.15am Star Trek: Insurrection 7.20pm, 9.40pm What Dreams May Come 1.35pm, 4.10pm, 6.40pm,

9,10pm VIRGIN UXBRIDGE ROAD (0870-VIRGIN UXBRIDGE ROAD (08/0-9070719) 8R/\Tilde{\tilde{P}} Ealing 8roadway Babe: Pig in the City 12noon Enemy of the State 6pm, 8.40pm The Mask of Zorro 2,10pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm The Parent Trap 12.30pm, 3.20pm The Prince of Egypt 1pm, 3.20pm, 5.50pm Star Trek; Insurrection 8.30pm

GOLDERS GREEN
ABC (0181-455 1724) & Golders Green The Prince of Egypt 1.45pm, 4.05pm Star Trek: Insurrection 6.20pm, 8.40pm

ODEON (08705 050007) & Holloway Babe: Pig in the City 12.15pm, 2.20pm Enemy of the State 12noon, 2.20pm, 2.45pm, 5.10pm, 5.35pm, 8pm, 8.35pm The Mask of Zorro 1.40pm, 5.35pm, 8.15pm Mulan 12.55pm Out of Sight 8.25pm The Parent Trap 12.35pm, 3.15pm The Parent Trap 12.35pm, 3.15pm The Prince of Egypt 12.10pm, 2.20pm, 4.35pm, 6.50pm, 9pm Rush Hour 12.05pm, 2.20pm, 4.35pm, 6.50pm, 9.05pm Small Soldiers 12noon Star Trek: Insurrection 6.40pm, 9.05pm What Dreams May Come 3.05pm.

ODEON (08705 050007) @ Gants Hill Antz 12.05pm Enemy of the State 11.50am, 2.40pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm The Mask of Zorro 1.50pm, 5pm, 8pm The Parent Trap 12.20pm, 3.05pm The Prince of Egypt 11.40am, 2pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm Star Trek: Insurrection 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.35pm, 9.05pm What Dreams May Come 5.50pm, 8.35pm

ABC (0870 9020401) 8R: Putney/ Putney 8ridge Antz 1.15pm Babe:
Pig in the City 1.30pm. 3.45pm Enemy of the State 5.15pm, 8.15pm The

 The Anti-Pierre The Property of the State 5.15pm, 8.15pm The Parent Trap 2.15pm The Prince of Egypt 3.30pm Star Trek: Insurrection Come 6pm, 8.30pm

RICHMOND ODEON (08705 050007) BR/O Richmond Enemy of The State 12.10pm. 3pm. 6pm, 9pm The Mask of Zorro 2.10pm. 5.40pm, 8.40pm The Prince of Egypt 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 9.20pm Star Trek: Insurrection 6.30pm, 9.20pm

ODEON STUDIO (08705 050007) 8R/& Richmond Antz 2pm, 4pm Babe: Fig in the City 1.30pm The Par-ent Trap 12.30pm. 3.10pm Rush Hour 4pm, 6.30pm, 9.20pm What Dreams May Come 1.30pm, 4.10pm, 6pm, 6.50pm, 8.40pm, 9.20pm

STAPLES CORNER VIRGIN (0870-9070717) 8R: Cricklewood Babe: Pig in the City 1.30pm, 3.50pm Enemy of the State 12.15pm, 3.15pm, 6.15pm, 9.10pm the Mask of Zorro) 2noon, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm The Parent Trap 12.45pm, 3.30pm The Prince of Egypt 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm Rush Hour 6.40pm, 9.15pm Star Trek: Insurrection 6.15pm, 8.50pm What Dreams May Come 1pm, 3.40pm, 6.25pm,

SURREY QUAYS UCI (0990 888990) € 5urrey Quavs Antz 11.45am, 2.35pm Enemy of tha State 12noon, 12.40pm, 3pm, 3.20pm, 6pm, 8.50pm, 9.40pm The Mask of Zorro 12.30pm, 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 9.30pm Mulan 11.15am The Parent Trap 12.10pm, 3.05pm, 5.50pm The Prince of Egypt 10.45am. 1.15pm. 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm Rush Hour 5pm, 7.30pm, 9pm. 9.50pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.15pm, 1.45pm, 3.55pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 7pm, 9pm, 9.30pm What Dreams May Come 1.25pm, 4pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm

ODEON (08705 050007) - South Wimbledon Antz 12noon Babe: Pig in the City 11.55am, 2.05pm Enemy Of the State 11.45am, 2.30, 5.25pm. 8.20pm The Mask of Zorro 1.55pm, 5pm, 8.10pm The Parent Trap 12moon, 3pm The Prince of Egypt 11.30am, 1.50pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm. 8.45pm Rush Hour 4.10pm Star Trek: Insurrection 6.20pm, 8,40pm What Dreams May Come 5.45pm, 8.30pm

CINEMA REPERTORY

NFT South Bank SE1 (0171-928 3232) Sling Blade (15) 2.30pm The Adventures of Robin Hood (U) 6.10pm The Lavender Hi0 Mob (U) 6.30pm The Anniversary (18) 7.30pm Breaking the Waves (18) 8.15pm Lost

PRINCE CHARLES Leicester Place WC2 (0171-437 8181] Boogle Nights (18] 1pm Scarface (1983 version) (18) 4.30pm Titanic (12) 8pm RIVERSIDE STUDIOS CINEMA Crisp

Road W6 (0171-420 0100) Bandit Queen (18) 6pm + Elizabeth 8,30pm WATERMANS ARTS CENTRE High Street, Brentford, Middlesex (0181-568 1176) Mulan (U) 1,30pm Dancing at Luginasa (PG) 3,30pm Fire (1S)

DUKE OF YORK'S (01273-602503) Mulan (U) 2pm Elizabeth (1S) 6.30pm

CUBE CINEMA (0114-907 4191) Antz (PG) 4pm It's A Wonderful Life (U)

WATERSHED (0117-925 3845) If Only (15) 3pm, 6.05pm MouseHunt (PG) 3.05pm Elizabeth (15) 6pm, 8.20pm Dancing at Lughnasa (PG) 8,30pm CAMBRIDGE

ARTS CINEMA (01223-504444) Eliz-abeth (1S) 2pm, 6.45pm My Name is Joe (15) 4.30pm, 9.10pm CARDIFF CHAPTER ARTS CENTRE (01222-399666) The Governess (15) 7.30pm

JPSWICH FILM THEATRE (01473-215544) Mulan (U) 2.30pm Cube (15] 6pm. 8.15pm The Exorcist (25th Anniver-sary Rerelease) (18) 6pm. 8.30pm

PHOENIX ARTS (0116-255 4854) I Want You (18) 6.05pm Cousin Bette (15) 8.30pm

CINEMA CITY (01603-622047) Lost

in Space (PG) 2.30pm There's Some-thing About Mary (15) 5.30pm It's a Wonderful Life (U) 8.15pm THEATRE WEST END

Ticket availability details are for today. times and prices for the week: running times include intervals. ● — Seats at all prices I — Seats at some prices O — Returns only Matinees — [1]: 5un, [3]: Tue, [4]: Wed, [5]: Thur, [6]: Fri.

ALARMS AND EXCURSIONS Michael Frayn's new comedy about a dinner party which is interrupted by mysterious messages stars Pelicits Kendal and Josie Lawrence. Glelgud Shaftesbury Avenue. W1 (0171–494 5065) & Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5]]7] 3pm, £19.50-£27.50. 130 mlns. AMADEUS David Suchet stars as

Salieri in Peter Shaffer's acclaimed drama. Old Vic The Cut. SE1 (0171-928 7616/cc 420 0000] 8R/ Waterloo, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] 2.30pm, [7] 3pm, from £7.50-£30. 180 mins. ANNIE Rags to riches story of the optimistic orphan. Victoria Palace Victoria Street, SW1 (0171-834 1317) 8R/O Victoria, Tue-Sat 7.30pm, (4)(7)

2.30pm, (1) 4pm, £7.50-£32.50. • ART Larry Lamb, Jack Dee, Tim Healy in Yasmina Reza's comedy about art and friendship. Wyndham's Char-Ing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736/cc 0171-867 1111] ⊕ Letc Sq. Tue-Sat 8pm, [4] 3pm,]7])1] 5.00pm, £9.50-£27.50. 90 mins.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST Lavish family musical based on Disney's cartoon version of the favourite fairy tale.

Dominion Tottenham Court Road, W1
(0171-656 1888) & Tott Ct Rd. Today 2.30pm & 7.30pm, £18.50-£35. 150

● BLOOD BROTHERS Willy Russell's long-running Liverpool musical melodrama. Phoenix Charing Cross Road. WC2 (0171-369 1733) ← Lec Sq. Mon-Sat 7.45pm. [5] 3.00pm. [7] 4.00pm. £11.50-£32.50. 165 mins.

● BOOGIE NIGHTS Shane Richie

stars in a brand new 1970s musical. Savoy Strand, WC2 (0171-836 8888/cc 0171-836 0479] • Charing X/Em-bankment. Mon-Thur 8pm, Fri-Sat 8.30pm, [6) 5.30pm. [7] 5pm, ends 9 Jan, £11-£28.50. 150 mins. BUDDY Musical biog-show tracing the brief life of Buddy Holly. Strand Ald-

Garden/Charing X. Tue-Thur 8pm, Fri 5.30pm & 8.30pm, Sat 5pm & 8.30pm, mats [1] 4pm, £10-£27, half price Friday matinees. 160 mins. D CATS Lloyd Webber's musical version of TS Eliot's poems. New London Parker Street. WC2 (0171-405 0072) O Covent Garden/Holborn, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [3][7] 3pm, booking to June 26. £12.50-£35, 165 mlns.

wych, WC2 (0171-930 8800) & Covent

O CHICAGO Maria Friedman and Peter Davison star in this hit Broadway mu-

sical. Adelphi Malden Lane. WC2 (0171-344 0055) & Charing X. Mon-Sat 8pm, [4)[7] 3pm, booking to Sep 25, £16-£36 (inc booking fee), 130 mins. D CINDERELLA Angela Carter's version of this fairytale is staged by the ac-claimed Improbable Theatre. Lyric

THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (ABRIDGED) Reduced Stakespeare Company fast-forward through 37 plays. Criterion Piccadilly Circus, W1 (0171-369 1747] ◆ Picc Circ. Wed-Sat 8.00pm, [5] 3.00pm, [7] 5.00pm, [1] 4.00pm, £6-£25, Thur mats - all seats £10, 120 mins.

● DR DOLITTLE Phillip Schofield talks to the animals in this new stage adap-tation featuring Jim Henson Puppets. London Apollo Hammersmith Queen Caroline Street, W6 [0171-416 6022] ♣ Hammersmith. Tue-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm, £10-£32.50. 150 mins.

● FAME THE MUSICAL High-octane FAME THE MUSICAL High-octaine stage version of the TV series charting the highs and lows of a class of young showbiz hopefuls. Prince of Wales Coventry Street, W1 (0171-839 5972) & Leic Sq/Picc Circ, Mon-Thu 8pm, Fri 5.30pm & 8.30pm, Sat 4pm & 8pm, ends 16 Jan, £15-£30.

O FILLIMENA Judi Dench and Michael Pennington star in Timberlake Werten-baker's new translation of Eduardo de Filippo's play. Piccardily Denman Street, W1 (0171-369 1734) ◆ Picc Crc. Tonight 8pm, ends 27 Feb, £12-£30, 120 mins.

● GREASE Energetic stage version of the hit film. Cambridge Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-494 5080) — Covent Gar-den, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 3pm, £10-£30, 150 mins. AN IDEAL HUSBAND Christopher

Cazenove and Susannah York in Peter Hall's acclaimed production of Wilde's comedy Lyric Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5045) ← Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45pm. (4) 3pm, [7] 4pm, £8.50-£29.50. 165 mins.

DAN INSPECTOR CALLS Stephen Daldry's widely-acclaimed production of JB Priestley's thriller Garrick Char-ing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 5085) Decic Sq. Mon-Fri 7.45pm, Sat 8.15pm, (4] 2.30pm, [7] 5.00pm, £10,50-£25, 110 mins. O INTO THE WOODS Sondheim and

Lapme's acclaimed musical based on fairytales, Donmar Warehouse Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732) Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 7.30pm. [4][7] 2.30pm, £15-£27.50.) THE INVENTION OF LOVE TOM Stoppard's play about the life of poet A E Houseman, author of *The Shropshire* Lod Theatre Royal, Haymarket Hay-market, 5W1 (0171-930 8800)

◆ Picc Circ. Tue-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7) 2.30pm, £10-£32,50. • JESUS, MY BOY Tom Conti stars m John Dowie's alternative Christmas show Apollo Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5070) Picc Circ. Today 5pm & 8pm, £5.50-£18.50.

-Sat 8pm, (4][7] 3pm, ends 9 Jan, LES MISERABLES Musical drama-

tisation of Victor Hugo's masterpiece. Palace Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-434 0909) & Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [5][7) 2.30pm, £7-£35. 195 MISS SAIGON Musical which re-● MISS SAIGON musical which resets the miss tragedy to Vietnam. Theatre Royal, Drury Lane Catherine Street, WC2 (0171-494 5060) ⊕ Covent Garden, Mon-Sat 7.45pm.

4] (7] 3.00pm, £5.75-£35, 165 mins.

THE MOUSETRAP Agatha Christie's whodunnit. St Martm's West Street, WC2 (0171-836 1443) @ Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 8.00pm, (3[2,45pm, (7) 5.00pm, £10-£24.50, 135 mins. MATTI Sean Foley and Hamish McColl star in a new version of Brecht's com-

edy satire. Albery St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-369 1730] & Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [5][7] 3pm, ends 9 Jan, £5-£22.50. O THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA Andrew Lloyd Webber's Gothic musical. Her Majesty's Haymarket SW1 (0171-494 5400/cc 0171-344 4444) ⊕ Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4](7) 3pm. £10-£35, 150 mins.

PRENT Musical inspired by La Boheme and set in modern day New York. Shaftesbury Shaftesbury Avenue. WC2 (07000-211221) & Holborn/Tott Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, |4||7(3pm, £12.50-£32.50, 160 mins. ROYAL NATIONAL THEATRE

DOLIVIER: Peter Pan Stephen Oliver's music accompanies the tale of the Boy Who Would Not Grow Up, with Michael Bryant as the Storyteller. In rep • LYTTELION: Betrayal Pinter's defining work depicts a menage a trois is directed by Trevor Nunn and stars Imogen Stubbs and Douglas Hodge. In

rep tonight 7.30pm, 90 mins. O COTTESLOE: Haroun and the Sea of Stories Tim Supple's stage adapta-tion of Salman Rushdie's acclaimed novel. In rep today 2.30pm & 7.30pm. Olivier & Lyttelton; £8-£27. Cottesloe: £12-£18. Dat seats from 10am. South

Bank, SE1 (0171-452 3000). 8R/O Wa-

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY THE BARBICAN: The Tempest Adrian Noble directs Shakespeare's ronce drama. In rep tonight 7.15pm.

THE PIT: The Two Gentlemen of Verona Shakespeare's witty comedy is directed by Edward Hall. In rep tonight 7.15pm. Barbican Theatre: £5-£26 The Pit: £11-£18.50. Barbican Centre. £C2 (0171-638 8891). 8R/O Barbican/Moorgate.

O SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER Hit 1970s musical featuring legendary songs by the Bee Gees and starring Adam Garcia London Paliadium Argyll Street, W1 (0171-494 5020) & Oxford Circ. Hammersmith King Street. W6 (0181-741 2311] & Hammersmith, Today 2,30pm & 7pm, ends 9 Jan. £5-£18. concs £6.50. Mon-Sat 7 30pm, (4((7) 2.30pm, £10-£32.50 135 mins,

O THE SNOWMAN Award-winning production of Raymood Briggs's contemporary classic. Sadler's Wells Ar The Peacock Portugal Street, WC2 (0171-863 8222) — Holborn. Today 2.30pm & 7.30pm, ends 30 Jan, £7.50-£32,50.

STARLIGHT EXPRESS Andrew yd Webber's hi-tech roller-musical Apollo Victoria Wilton Road, SW1 (0171-416 6070) BR/- Victoria. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [3][7] 3.00pm, £12.50-THINGS WE DO FOR LOVE

Belinda Lang stars in Alan Ayckbourn's comedy. Duchess Catherine Street, WC2 (0171-494 5075] & Covent Garden, Mon-Sat 7.45pm. [5][7] 3pm. ends 23 Jan, £15-£27,50. 140 mins.

• THE WEIR Conor McPherson's drama is set in Ireland and examines ideas of ghosts and angels. Royal Court Downstairs (at the Duke Of York's] St Martin's Lane, WCZ (0171-565 5000) ⊕ Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 3.30pm, £5-£25, 90 mins. I WEST SIDE STORY Brand new production of Bernstein's classic mu attempting to recreate the feel of the

Old Compton Street, W1 (0171-447 5400) © Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5][7] 3pm, £15-£35, 160 mins. O WHISTLE DOWN THE WIND Lloyd. Webber's new musical based on the film of the same name. Aldwych Aldwych, WC2 (0171-416 6000/cc 0171-836 2428) Holborn. Mon-Sat 7,45pm, [5][7] 3pm, £10-£32,50, 120 mins.

original Broadway hit. Prince Edward

THE WOMAN IN BLACK Susan Hill's chilling ghost story. Fortune Russell Street, WC2 (0171-836 2238/cc 0171-344 4444) & Covent Garden/Holbom, Mon-Sat 8pm, [3] 3pm, Sat 4pm, £8,50-£23,50, 110 mins.

THEATRE BEYOND THE WEST END

HACKNEY EMPIRE Dick Whittington and His Cat Anita Dobson and Paul Moriarty star. Today 2.30pm & 7.30pm, ends 10 Jan. £5.50-£15.50. Mare Street, E8 (0181-985 2424) BR: Hackney Central.

YOUNG VIC Arabian Nights Collection of magical Eastern tales adapted for the stage by Dominic Cooke. Today 3.30pm & 7pm, continuing. £7-£18. The Cut, SEI (0171-928 6363)

Waterles

THEATRE COUNTRYWIDE

THEATRE ROYAL Jack and the Beanstalk Paul Bradley from Eastenders stars alongside Only Fools and Horses' John Challis. Today 2pm & 7pm, ends 24 Jan. £6-£16, concs available. Stayclose (01225-648844) able. Sawclose (01225-448844)

CORN EXCHANGE Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs With Coronation Street's Beverly Callard and Nick Cochrane. Today 2pm & 7pm, ends 10 Jan. £5-£14. Wheeler Street (01223-

EXETER NORTHCOTT THEATRE Dick Whittington Follow the penniless hero as he searches for the streets paved with gold. Today 2.30pm & 7.30pm, ends 16 Jan. £7-£15, Stocker Road (01392-493493)

WHITE ROCK THEATRE Peter Pan Gladiator Jet co-stars with Neighbo, and Jesse Spencer. Today 2pm & 7pm, enc. 4, 3 Jan. £4.50-£8.50, cones available. White Rock (01424-781000) **WOLSEY THEATRE A Christmas Car**of The Wolsey Theatre offers Dickens's tale of greed in Victorian London as an

alternative to pantomime. Today 2pm & 7pm, ends 9 Jan. £5-£15, concs available. Civic Drive (01473-253725) MILFORD HAVEN TORCH THEATER Christmas Cat and the Pudding Pirates Seasonal adven-ture set on a magic galleon. Today 2pm 6 7.30pm. £8, concs £5. St Peters Road (01646-695267)

PLAYHOUSE THEATRE Cinderella Family panto with plenty of songs and audience participation for the dreaming spires. Today 2pm & 7pm, ends 17 Jan. 26-£16.50. Beaumont Street (01865-

POOLE ARTS CENTRE Aladdin Dora Bryan stars as the Slave Of the Ring alongside Tracey Childs and David McAlister of Hollyooks. Today 2.30pm & 7pm, ends 16 Jan. £5.90-£11.90. concs available. Kingland Road (01202-685222)

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE THEATRE THE Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe Adri-an Noble directs Adrian Mitchell's adaplation of the CS Lewis Narnia classic Today ?. 15pm, ends 27 Feb. £5-£30. SWAN THEATRE Trollus and Cressida Shakespeare's depiction of the human spirit undermined by bloody war-

fare. Tonight 7.30pm, ends Feb 20. £5-£30 Waterside (01789-295623) WATFORD
PALACE THEATRE Jack and the
Beanstalk Roy Hudd's family panto. 70day 2pm & 6.45pm. ends Jan 9, £5.
£13. Clarendon Road (01923-2256717). WATFORD

OCTAGON THEATRE Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs Lavish musical panto. Today 2.30pm & 7pm. ends 9 Jan. £8.50-£10.50. concs £6.50-£8 50 Hendford (01935-422884)

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WEDNESDAY RADIO

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197.6-99.8MHz FM) 7.00 Chris Moyles. 10.00 Scott Mills. 1.00 Kevin Graening. 4.00 Dave Pearce. 8.00 Steve Lamacq the Evening Session. 10.00 John Peel. 12.00 Gillas Peterson. 2.00 Emma B. 4.00-7.00 Clive Warren.

RADIO 2 (88-90.2MHz FM) 6.00 Mo Dutta. 8.05 Sarah Kennedy. 10.00 Richard Allinson. 12.00 Jimmy Young. 2.00 Alex Lester. 5.05 Johnnie Walker. 7.00 Malo's Maverick Christmas. 8.00 Mike Harding Review of the Year. 9.00 Tha Andy Peebles Soul Show. 10.00 Route 66 Revisited. 10.30 Bob Harris. 12.00 Katrina

RADIO 3 1902-924MHz FM) 6.00 On Air. 9.00 Masterworks. 10.30 Artist of the Week. 11.00 Sound Stories. 12.00 Composer of the Week:

Leskanich. 3.00 - 4.00 Nicky

1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Con-2.00 The BBC Orchestras. 3.50 The Harmonic Series. 4.00 Choral Evensong.

5.00 A Medieval Christmas. 5.30 Music Rooms. 6.00 Discovering Music with Leonard Slatkin. 6.55 Performance on 3.

7.45 The Coq and the Tsar. An investigation into the satirical intent behind Belsky's adaptation of Pushkin's tale and Rimsky-Korsakov's further alterations. 8.10 The Golden Cockerel, Acts 2 and 3.

9.40 Postscript. Kevin Jackson unravels the stories behind classic works of Europeen literature. 3: 'The Poems of Friedrich Holderlin'. In September 1806, Friedrich Holderlin was forcibly removed to a clinic for the insane. Discharged after eight months, he was given only three years to live, though he survived a further 36 living in a tower being cared for by a carpenter. Before his mental breakdown, he had written a series of elegies and nymns that make him one of the

finest poets of the romantic age.

6.00 Calm at Sunset (1996) (86905).

1996) 41858) 5.00 Covote Summer

1996) (63108). 7.00 The Adventures of

Pinocchro (1995) (56479). 9.00 Beautiful Girls (1996) (40769). 11.00 City of Indus-

try (1997) (626450). 12.40 The Killing Jar

4.00 (et's Dance (1950) (7178)271, 6.00 in

Name Only (1939) (9584189). 8.00 Cleopa-

tra (1963) (7381194). 12.00 Seven Days in

(1967) (8254783). 3.50 Who's Got the Ac-

Pepe Le Moko (1936) (2637030).
 Ouiz Show (1994) (50918905). See Pick of the Day. 10.10 Reservoir Dogs

(3960290). 3.15 - 6.00 Bad Lieutenant

(1991) (4175653). **11.50** City on Fire (1979) (4467127). **1.30** The Usual Suspects (1995)

May (1964) (3203144), 2.00 Tony Rome

tion (1962) (66442892). 5.20 Close.

(1996) (544431), **2.25** Dangerous Ground (1997) [868948), **4.00 - 6.00**

Evil Has a Face (1996) (46054).

SKY CINEMA

FILMFOUR

(1992) (96818702).

DISCOVERY CHANNEL

8.00 The Staircase (1998) (18721). 10.00

SKY PREMIER

Kevin Jackson explores this highly

PICK OF THE DAY

parts greed, two parts history the tale of Robert Edwards, a gain a cool \$680 billion. Weish naval officer granted Manhattan Island (right) hy the Crown in 1770. In 1778 he leased the land for 99 years to the supermarkets is a good or the wardens of Trinity Church; a had thing. but when the lease was up,

distinctive vision and the way this

ers in East Germany.

motion.

iconic figure inspired samizdat writ-

10.00 Faure. Piano Quartet No 1 in

C minor, Op 15. James Clark and

Marwood (viola), Ursula Smith (cel-

Adrian Jack keeps going in parallel

10.45 Book, Music and Lyrics. Six

programmes in which Robert Cush-

man presents a personal view of

musicals, with songs from original

some less wall known, 5: 'In memo-

riam: Ben Bagley and Jerome Rob-

year: Broadway's greatest director-

choreographer and the creator of

the Revisited record series which

preserved hundreds of fine and ne-

cast recordings - some familiar,

bins'. A tribute to two musical

theatre notables who died this

12.00 Composer of the Week

1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

9.30 The Rig. 9.45 Serial: Peter Pan and Wendy.

10.00 NEWS; Woman's Hour,

11.00 NEWS; Manhattan Story.

12.00 NEWS; You and Yours.

glected songs.

RADIO 4

11.30 Jazz Notes.

(92.4-94.6MHz FM)

6.00 Today. 9.00 NEWS; Midweek.

See Pick of the Day.

1.30 Wildbrain.

11.30 Choice Grenfell.

100 The World at One.

2.00 NEWS; The Archers.

Ruth Crouch (violins), Catherine

lo), Graeme McNaught (piano).

10.35 The Harmonic Series. 6:

THE RECIPE for a Manhattan the Church kept a firm hold. cocktail seems to be three Since 1921, the descendants of Edwards have been fighting and add a dash of grievance. to prove that the land is theirs, Manhattan Story (11am R4) is and if they win, they stand to

For those of us on smaller hudgets, Them and Us (8pm R4) asks whether the power of

ROBERT HANKS



2.15 Afternoon Play: Open Secrets. 3.00 NEWS; Gardeners' Question Time Christmas Soecial 3.30 The Small Ad. (R) 3.45 It Didn't Mean a Thing. 4.00 NEWS; Case Notes. 4.30 Thinking Allowed - the Larger

5.00 PM 6.00 Six O'Clock News. 6.30 Booked!. 7.00 NEWS; The Archers. 7:15 Front Row, Francine Stock charts the mysterious art of 90s film-making - pitching the script,

hooking a star, raising the cash, finding distribution. And is the concept of a British film now outmoded? 7.45 Under One Root, The second of three five-part dramatisations from the Michele Hanson stories. with Janet Maw, Edna Dore and

Luisa Bradshaw-White (3/5). 8.00 NEWS; Them and Us. Diana Madili presents the first in a series of lively debates about the major issues of the day. 'Supermarkets have more power than is good for you.' Fruit grower Mark Giles and hutcher Graham Hurley slug it out with Tony Combes from Safeways and economist Sean Rickard in front of an audience at Leominster, Worcestershire, See

Pick of the Day. 8.45 Keyword. Matt Frei highlights a word from a foreign language which captures the essence of that country and its culture. 3: 'Losing Face'. For the Chinese, feeling embarrassed is a gravely serious busi9.00 NEWS; Animais Behaving Badly. The second of four programmes exploring some of the many antisocial activities of wildlife around the globe, from cannibalistic hamsters to egg-dumping swallows. 9.30 Midweek. Join Libby Purves at the National Maritime Museum with HRH The Duke of Edinburgh. 10.00 The World Tonight. With Sue

10.45 Book at Bedtime: Five Dahls. 3: 'A Dip in the Pool by Roald Dahl, read by Geoffrey Palmer. On a rough see trip, Mr Botibol thinks that he can predict how far the ship will travel in 24 hours. But if the weather calms, he will be in danger of losing his money, 11.00 Sean Lock's 15 Minutes of

Misery. Downbeat comedy with Sean Lock, winner of the Time Out Comedy Award, who plays a character holed up in a tlat from where he eavesdrops on his neighbours. 11.15 MacLean: Memorex Years. 11.30 4 at the Store. 12.00 News.

12.30 The Late Book: The Restraint of Beasts. 12.48 Shipping Forecast. 1.00 As World Service. 5.30 World News. 5.35 Shipping Forecast. 5.40 Inshore Forecast. 5.45 Prayer for the Day. 5.47 - 6.00 Farming Today, **RADIO 4 LW**

(198kHz) 9.45 - 10.00 Daily Service, 12.00 12.04 News Headlines; Shipping Forecast 5.54 - 5.57 Shipping

RADIO 5 LIVE (693, 909kHz MW) 6.00 Proops's Hoops, (R) 6.30 Breakfast. 9.00 Brian Hayes. 12.00 The Midday News. 1.00 Ruscoe and Co. 4.00 Drive. 7.00 News Extra. 7.30 John Inverdale's Football Night. Featuring commentary from the Scottish Premier League, as Dundee United take on Rangers. 9.30 Muscular Prose. With Nick Coleman. Prose about the nonplayers who make sport possible: referees, groundsmen, trainers and mechanics. (R) 10.00 The End of the Year Show.

حكدًا من الاصل

In this lively and entertaining look back at the year, Bruce Hyman talks to a group of five well known figures who have been in the public eye for various reasons during 1998. 12.00 Interesting, Very Interesting. 1.00 Up All Night. 4.00 Extra Time. (R) 5.00 - 6.00 Spotlight 98. (R)

CLASSIC FM (1000-1019MHz FM) 6.00 Nick Bailey. 8.00 Henry Kelly. 12.00 Requests. 2.00 Classic Celebrity Recitals. 3.00 Jamie

Crick. 6.30 Newsnight. 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven, 9.00 Evening Concert. 11.00 Alan Mann. 2.00 Classic Celebrity Recitals. 3.00 - 6.00 Mark Griffiths. VIRGIN RADIO

(1215, 1197-1260kHz MW 1058MHz FM) 6.00 Jeremy Clark. 10.00 Russ Williams 100 Nick Abbot 4.00 Harriet Scott, 7.30 Mark Forrest. 10.00 Richard Allen. 1.00 - 6.00 James Merritt.

WORLD SERVICE RADIO (198kHz LW) 1.00 Newsdesk. 1.30 Omnibus. 2.00 Newsday, 2.30 Meridian (Books). 3.00 World News. 3.05 World Business Report, 3.15 Sports Roundup. 3.30 Brain of Brains, 4.00 - 7.00 World Today

TALK RADIO 6.00 Bill Overton and Sally Meen. 9.00 Scott Chisholm. 12.00 Lorraine Kelly, 2.00 Nancy Roberts. 4.00 Peter Deeley. 5.00 The Sports Zone. 8.00 James Whale. 1.00 - 6.00 Gordon Astley.

INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

CHESS JON SPEELMAN

TOP ORGANISER Adam Racof's Oxford International Chess festival finished a week ago today after exciting last round battles in all events.

In the Grandmaster A. Julian Hodgson had started the day leading by a whole point. Hodgson, however, tried the Sicilian Dragon against the dangerous young Israeli, Emil Sutovsky, and was shot down in flames. This gave Swede Jonny Hector the chance to catch up. Hector took the opportunity, defeating the off-form Peter Wells to tie on 6/9. But the prize fund was to be apportioned according to tiehreak; and this favoured Hodgson who received the first prize of £4,000. while Hector made just £3.000.

The two were followed by John Nunn, who made 5.5; McDonald and Gausel, 5; Sutovsky and Turner, 4.5; Rowson and Pedersen, 3; and Wells, just 2.5.

In the Grandmaster B eveot, Barsov and Colin Crouch were first equal on 6/9, ahead of Tim Wall - who made an (IM) norm, Summerscale and Ansell oo 5.5.

The greatest drama of all. though, from a classical point of view, was surely the sibling battle between Harriet Hunt and her younger brother Adam in the International Master event. A point clear after 5 rounds, Harriet was ground down in the sixth by the extremely determined Adam. She recovered though, to win outright with 7/9 and make an IM norm. Adam Hunt came second on 6.5.

This was the chaotic battle between the two winners. In the opening. 7.... b6 looks a bit dubious in view of the weakening of the loog white diagonal - 7....Qb6 was safer. Hector had to surrender the centre with 12....dxc4 since if 12....Nh5 13.cxd5 cxd5 14.Nxd5! exd5 15.Oxd5! wins. The excellent 17.Nxd5! cemented the advantage since the natural 17....cxd5 would lose the b5 pawn. White looks quite winning after 23.Rxc4 though it required some care. At the end. if 36 ... Qf5+ 37.Kg2 Qg4+ 38.Kf1 Qd1+ (or 38....Qh3+ 39.Ke1 Qh1+ 40.Ke2 Qh5+ 41.f3 etc) 39.Be1 Qd3+ 40.Kg1 ends the

Julian Hodgson v Jonny Hector Oxford 1998 Queen's Gambit Slav

1.d4 d5 19 Rct Ra3 20.Rc2 Qg4 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 21.Bf1 Rc8 4.e3 Bf5 22.b4 Nc4 5.Nc3 e6 23.Rxc4 dxc4 6.Nh4 Bg4 24.Qxa3 Rd6 7.Qb3 b6 25.Rh3 Rxh4 26.Rxh4 Qxh4 8.h3 Bh5 9.g4 Bg6 27.Bg2 Qxg5 28.Bxc6+ Kf8 10.Nxg6 hxg6 11.Bg2 Be7 29.Qxa7 Qg1+ 12.g5 dxc4 30.Ke2 Qh1 13.Qxc4 Nd5 31.Qa3 Rb8 14.b4 b5 32.Qc3 Qxa2 15.Qd3 Nd7 33.d5 Rb6 16.Bd2 N7b6 34.Qd4 Qc2 17.Nxd5 exd5 35.Qxb6 Qd3+ 18.b3 Qd7 36.Kf3 1-0

BRIDGE

WEST DID not think far enough ahead in the defeoce on this parbcular deal. There were, in fact, two possible ways of trying for a ruff, hoth equally likely, but one of them gave a far better chance of defeating the contract.

South opened 1NT (15-17 points) and showed his Hearts in response to a Stayman enquiry. North's raise to game was passed out and West led his singleton club against Four

After winning in band, declarer played the ace and another trump which West won with his king. His problem now was, bow to put his partner in for the club ruff?

East was marked with some high cards - he might even have both A and A, in which case it would oot have mattered what West led with. But if East held only ooe ace, the wrong return would allow declarer to win and draw West's last trump.

There seemed to be no indication ives, some modernists would agree that the order in which East has played his trumps should have suit preference connotations, but East-West were not of this particular school..., and in practice West chose a diamood. Now South had teo tricks.

West had missed an important

North **♦**OJ ♥QJ72 ¢743 **♣**KJ107 West East **+**10652 **◆**A984 で长93 2108 ♦Q8652 ♦KJ9 **₽**9854 South **◆**K73 **%A654** OA 10 **♣**AQ63

Game all; dealer South

point. If indeed his partner beld A hut no ♠A. a club ruff might well not defeat the contract - unless East held both of the top diamonds, there would be no more tricks to come. But on the other hand, if East held ◆A but oot ⋄A, there would be some excellent prospects of eventually coming to a diamood trick at some later point, after taking the club ruff. As you can see from the above,

that is just how it would have worked out

Crystalline mineral (6)

Two-way telephone system (8)

13 Philosophy of resignation (8)

Brilliance (5)

Nobleman (4)

Cricket side (6)

Pass into law (5)

Do away with (7)

17 Narcotic drug (6)

18 Custom (5)

19 Mistakes (6)

Murder (7)

SATELLITE AND CABLE

PICK OF THE DAY

The Preacher's Wife (1996) (60444081). 2.05 Calm at Sunset (1996) (477769). 2.06 The Sketeboard Kid 2 (1995) 11. 553), 3.35 The Staircase (1998) (5) 4030), 5.10 The Preacher's Wife (1996) (18:49653). 745 Barry Norman's Films of (1997) (32740). 10.00 The Ghost and the Darkness (1996) (122924). 11.50 Bottle may have a future as a director. Rocket (1996) (213295). 1.25 The Univer sal Story (1995) (871122), 3.25 - 6.00 a fact-based parable about the Bounty Hunters (1996) (22048238). corruption of innocence in post-SKY MOVIEMAX War America. Ralph Fiennes 6.00 Divided by Hate (1996) 181769). 7.30 Coyote Summer (1996) (76771566). (right) performs well as the all-9.15 The Adventures of Pinocchio (1995) American boy whose exposure (44)23943). **11.00** Bury Me in Niagara (41295). **1.00** Weekend Reunion (1990) (41059). **3.00** Divided by Hate as a cheat on the most popular

ROBERT REDFORD is getting which shocked the cation.

a bit old to play the sort of Many people trace the start glamorous leading role he took of the problems that have in The Horse Whisperer, but he gripped the former Yugoslavia back to the death of Geoeral Tito He certainly brings a sharp eye and the break-up of the single to Quiz Show (8pm FilmFour), nation-state. Biography (9pm History Channel) charts Tito's rise, including the years he spent organising the National Liberation Army in its guerrilla war against the Nazis, before he become Marshal in 1943.

JAMES RAMPTON



tions 2 by James Burke (9426073). 1.30 Ancient Warriors (9772967), 2.00 Close SKY ONE

TV quiz show caused a scandal

8.00 Games World (4010295). 8.15 Games World (4000818), 8.30 Street Sharks (86059), 9.00 The Simpsons (60011), 9.30 Earthworm Jim (68112). 10.00 Hercules: the Legendary Journeys (59566). 11.00 The New Adventures of Superman (52030). 12.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (95295). 1.00 Days of Our Lives (16653), 2.00 Salv Jessy Raphael (36127), 3.00 Jenny Jones (14856), 4.00 Guityl (93363), 5.00 Star Trek (4924), 8.00 Married with Children (9585). 6.30 Friends (8027). 7.00 The Simpsons (5653). 7.30 The Simpsons (9721). 8.00 Stargete SG-1 (45214). 9.00 Stargete SG-1 (25450). 10.00 King of the Hill (58276). 10.30 Married with Children (67924). 11.00 Friends (94092). 11.30 Star Trek (30740). 12.30 Highlander (14735). 1.30 - 8.00 Long Play (6572561).

SKY SPORTS 1 4.00 Rex Hunt's Fishing Adventures 7.00 Sports Centre (8889943), 715 World Wrestling (157363), 8.15 Sports Centre (8513450). 4.30 Walker's World (8519634). 5.00 Connections 2 by James Burke (8030634), 8.30 Racing News (11856), 8.00 Aerobics (71568), 9.30 Football Spe-(2979943) 5.30 Jurassica (8533214) 6.00 Animal Doctor (8530127) 6.30 Sharks un-der the Sun (2083740) 7.30 Beyond 2000 cial Cheisea vs Manchester United (81059). 11.00 Inside Scottish Football (86634). (8510363), **8.00** Twister (8.00-11.00pm): Mystery of Twisters (2975127), **8.30** Won-12.00 Aerobics (5672), 12.30 World Windsurfing (4585), 1.00 Football Special Chalses vs Manchester United (49275). ders of Weather (2954634). 9.00 The Adventurers (5233382). 10.00 Reging Planet 2.30 Fastrax (5160). 3.00 Sports Unimited (5243789). 11.00 How Did They Build That (47106), 4.00 Scottish Football (59943), 5.00 World Wrestling (1856), 6.00 Sports (3191276), **11.30** Arimai X (4539522), **12.00** The Easy Riders (1994783), 1.00 Connec-

Centre (3189). 6.30 Unbelevable Sports 77891 7.00 Futbal Mundal (2585), 7.30 Scottish Football Dundee v Rangers (224547), 10.00 Sports Centre (179363), 10.15 Trans World Sport (575905), 11.15 Life of the Lions (146837). 115 Sky Sports Centre (9779798). 1.30 Unibelevable Sports (36615). 2.00 World Sport (72141). 3.00-315 Sports Centre (13009035).

SKY SPORTS 2 7.00 Aerobics · Oz Style (3034450). 7.30 Sports Centre (5353740). 7.45 Racing News (8514498), 8.15 Fastrax (67256 8.45 Sky Sports Centre (5048030), 9.00 Fish TV (2908276). 9.30 Fish TV Fishing Tales (3070108). 10.00 Sports Unlimited 69). 11.00 Windsurfing (8322382). 11.30 Festrax (8323011), 12.00 Wreating Federation (3093059), 1.00 Darts: World Championships (3785647), 5.00 V. Max (8265405), 5.30 H2O (9809301), 8.00 Wersports World (3082943), 7.00 Darts: World Championships (5130363), 11.00 Watersports World (3050498), 12.00 Football Dundee vs Rangers (7052257), 2.00 Sky

Sports Centre (11327306), 235 Close. SKY SPORTS 3 8.00 Cricket South Africa v West Indies (85168295). 10.00 Cricket Australia v England (85161382), 10.30 Cricket South Africa vs West Indies (98038189), 3.00 Cricket Australia v England (54258106) 5.30 Fish TV Fishing Tales (93439943) 6.00 Fish TV Americana Outdoors (93436856) 6.30 International Cricket South Africa vs West In-dies (26589672). 8.00 Cricket Australia vs

England (79656382), 10.30 Sports Classics Rugby Union (14650721). 11.30 Close. **EUROSPORT**

7.30 Xirem Sports Yoz Meg (24498) 8.30 Luge (84160) 9.30 Ski Jumping (76127) 11.00 Raily (53130), 12.00 Motor Sport (15160), 1.00 Combat Sports (31108), 2.00 Football (82789), 4,00 Sports Cock-Ups (1108), 4.30 Ski Jumping (93672), 6.30 Equestrianism (18275), 8.30 Dancing (57276), 9.30 Sumo (94301), 11.00 Football (97059). 1.00 Close. UK GOLD

7.00 Crossroads (471653, 7.30 Neighbours (4066837). 7.55 EastEnders (4473214), 8-30 The BE (8789634), 9.00 The Et (6703214) 9.30 Pride and Prijudice (9878108), 10.30 Angels (8709498). 11.00 Dalles (3113108), 11.55 Neighbours 2562059, 12.25 EastEnders (2996108). 1.00 Pride and Prejudice (7052383), 2.00 Dallas (52265-17). 2.55 The Bit (2688498). 3.25 The Bit (6895498), 3.55 EastEnder (3185194), 4-30 Angels (75032030), 4.55 Films: Carry On Citistmas: Carry On Don't Lose Your Head (1966) (20589740). 8.45 Christmas Comedy Alternative: Keeping Up Appearances (32953030), 8.00 Christmas Cornedy Alternative: 'Alio 'Alio! (5222276). 9.00 One Foot in the Grave (5669566). 9.40 Men Betteving Badly (7527634). 10.20 Bottom (5287382). 11.00 The Bill (3193634), **1L30** The SE (2739540), **12.00** Blackadder's Christmas Carol (7305764). 12.55 Dad's Army (88591493). 2.00 No

Place like Home (1957054), 2.30 Only when I Laugh (1936561), 3.00 - 7.00 Shopping with Screenshop (2789122). 6.00 Tiny Living (\$198127), 9.00 The Roseanne Show (4991653), 9.50 The Jerry

Springer Show (5736856), 10.40 Michael Cole (3947214), 11.30 Brookside (1874565). 12.00 Special Babies (3835547), 12.30 Rescue 811 (1415108). 1.00 Ready, Stead Cook (1964108). 1.35 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (7345721). 230 The Jerry Springer Show (4748127), 3.00 Films: Dalsy Kenyon (1947) (1558672), 5.00 Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction (2892059), 5.35 Can't Cook, Wort Cook (1743450), 6.30 The Jerry Springer Show (6470547), 7,00 Rescue 911 (7157634). 7.30 Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction (1726450), B.DO Murder Call (9576160), 9.00 Halifax FP (9586547). 11.00 Sex Life Down Under (1293160). 12.00 Close.

9.00 Doctor Zhivago (1965) (93594721). 12.15 The Dirty Dozen (1967) (74936144). 3.00-5.00 Cincirnati Kid (1965) (14561344). PARAMOUNT COMEDY CHANNEL 7.00 Cueless (6617). 7.30 Desmand's (4295). 8.00 Roseanne (6547). 8.30 Just Shoot Me (8382), 9.00 Cybil (53769), 9.30 Seinfeld (29383), 10,00 Frasier (14943). 10.30 Cheers (90363), 11.00 Festival of Fun I (58214), 11.30 The Larry Sanders Show (79856), 12.00 Late Night with David Letterman (43832). 1.00 Taxi (96509). 1.30 The Critic (34257), 2.00 Dr Katz (64561), 2.30 Soap (83696), 3.00 Hooperman (67883). 3.30-4.00 Nightstand (74948).

GRANADA PLUS 6.00 The Box (\$198127). **2.00** On the Buses (\$582301). **7.30** Ferm Street Gang (\$578108). **8.00** That's My Boy (\$274363). 3.30 Second Thoughts (8273634), 9.00 Coronation Street (8297214), 9.30 Emmerdale (8170127). 10.00 thirtysomething (8567092). 11.00 Hewel Five-O (8587856). 12.00 Coronation St (8277450). 12.30 Emmerdale (8174943), 1.00 How's Your Father? (8584672), 1.30 Welching (8173214). 2.00 thirtysomething (459837). 3.00 The Return of Sherlock Holmes (4522127), 4,00 Professionals (4801634), 5.00 Hawaii Five-O (2482498), 8.00 Emmerdale (8880943). 6.30 Coronation Street (8871295). 7.00 Vission: Impossible (2214059), 8.00 Protessionals (2290479), 9.00 Coronation St 4607818). 9.30 Sez Les (8161479). 10.00 The Joker's Wild (8285479), t0.30 Hogans Heroes (8294127). 11.00 As Granada Men & Motors (1496653). 2.00 Close.

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

6.00 GMTV (1738769).9.35 Tiny Toon 6.00 GMTV (1/38/68),9395 Trily foot Adventures (5472837), 10.10 Brilliant Creatures (7933450), 10.35 Film: The Shaggy Dog (33035634), 1.00 Di-nosaurs (28672), 1.30 Film: My Girl (57559295), 3.25 Cartoon (8445498), 3.40 Film: Iron Will (859634), 7.00 Em-mentals (249), 7.30 Corporation Street merdale (2419). 7.30 Coronation Street (585), 8.00 Film: The Three Musketeen (9301). 10.00 Babes in the Wood (359905) 11.10 The South Bank Show (339900) 1730 The South Bank Show [269671) 12.10 Film: Bugsy (35382509). 2.45 Film: No Secrets (86665). 4.20 ITV Nightscreen (25431509). 4.35 Coro-nation Street (46842431). 5.05 Hurricanes (7713325). **5.30** The Bugs Burny Mystery Special (9542344). **5.55** -**6.00** ITN Morning News (9202493).

CENTRAL 6.00 GMTV |1738769). 9.25 ITN News 6.00 GMTV 11738769). 9.25 ITN News Headlines (4088498). 9.35 Tiny Toon Adventures (5472837). 10.10 Brilliant Creatures (7933450). 10.35 Film: The Shair 1: y Dog 133035634. 12.30 ITN Ne...; Weather (54924). 1.00 Dinosaurs (26672). 1.30 Film: My Girl (57559295). 3.25 Cartoon (8445498). 3.30 ITN News Headlines (6675059). 3.35 Central News 16867030). 3.40 Film: Iron

Will (859634). 5.40 News; Weather (231740). 6.00 Beadle's Hot Shots (641479). 7.00 Emmerdale (2419). 7.30 Coronation Street (585). 8.00 Film: The Three Musketeers (9301). 10.40 Babes in the Wood (359905). 10.45 ITN News; Weather (980634). 11.10 The South Bank Show (269571). 12.10 Film: Bugsy (35362509). 2.45 Film: No Secrets (866615). 4.20 Soundtrax (25431509). 4.35 Cybernet (46842431). 5.05 Hurricanes (7713325). 5.30 The Bugs Burny Mystery Special (9542344). 5.55. 6.00 ITN Morning News (9202493).

HTY WALES 6.00 GMTV (1738769). 9.25 ITN News Headlines (4062450). 9.35 Tiny Toon Adventures (5472837), 10.10 Brilliant Creatures (7933450), 10.35 Film: The Creatures (7933450), 10.35 Film: The Shaggy Dog (33035634), 12.30 News; Weather (54924), 1.00 Shortland Street (29672), 1.30 Film: My Girl (57559295), 3.25 Cartoon (8445498), 3.30 ITN News Headlines (8875059), 3.40 Film: Iron Will (859634), 5.40 News; Weather (231740), 6.00 Beadles Hof Shots (641479), 6.25 Wales Tonight (855301), 7.00 Emmerdele (2419), 7.30 Coronation Street (585), 8.00 Film: The Three Musketeers (9301), 10.00 Babes in the Wood (359905). 10.45 ITN News; Weather (980634). 11.10 The South Bank Show (269671). 12.10 Film: Bugsy (35382509). 2.45 Film: No Secrets 866615), 4.20 ITV Nightscreen (25431509). 4.35 Coronation Street (46842431). 5.05 Hurricanes (7773325). 5.30 Bugs Burny Mystery (9542344). 5.55 - 6.00 Morning News (9202493). MERIDIAN

6.00 GMTV (1738769). 9.35 Tiny Toon Adventures (5472837). 10.10 Britisht Creatures (7933450). 10.35 Film: The Sheggy Dog (20605194). 1.00 Hope and Gioria (28672). 1.30 Film: My Girl (57559295). **3.25** Cartoon (8445498). **3.30** ITN News Headlines (6875059). 3.40 Film: Iron Will (859634). 5.40 News; Weather (231740). 6.30 House Husters (301), 7.00 Emmerdale (249). 7.30 Coronation Street (585). 8.00 Film: The Thrae Musketsers (9301). 10.00 Babes in the Wood (359905). 10.45 News; Weather (980634) 11.10 The South Bank Show (269671). 12.10 Film: Bugsy (35382509). 2.45 Film: No Secrets (866615). 4.20 ITV Nightscreen (25431509). 4.35 Movie Show Special (48842431), 5.05 Hurricanes (7713325). 5.30 Bugs Bunny Mystery (9542344).

5.55 - 6.00 Morning News (9202493). WESTCOUNTRY 6.00 GMTV (1738769).9.35 Tiny Toon Adventures (5472837). 10.10 British Creatures (7933450). 10.35 Film: The

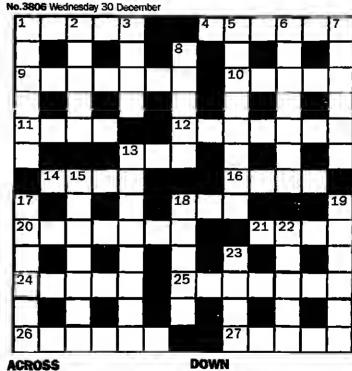
Shaggy Dog (20605194), 12.27 Humina-tions (6411030), 1.00 Emmerdale (28672), 1.30 Film: My Girl (57559295). 3.25 Cartoon (6445498), 3.40 Film: iron Will (859634), 7.00 Emmerdale (2419), 7.30 Coronation Street (585). 8.00 Film: The Three Musketeers (9301). 10.00 Babes in the Wood (9901), 10.00 Babes in the Wood (359905), 11.10 The South Bank Show (269671), 12.40 Film: Bugsy (35382509), 2.45 Film: No Secrets (866615), 4.20 ITV Nightscreen (25431509), 4.35 Coro-nation Street (46842431), 5.05 Humi-canes (7713325), 5.30 The Bugs Burnty Mystery Special (9542344), 5.55 -6.00 ITN Morning News (9202493).

YORKSHIRE 6.00 GMTV (1738769).9.35 Tmy Toon Adventures (5472837), 10.10 Briffiant Creatures (7933450), 10.35 Film: The Shaggy Dog (33035634), 1.00 Em-merdale (28672), 1.30 Film: My Girl (57559295). 3.25 Cartoon (8445498). 3.40 Film: fron Will (859634), 6.05 Calender Sports Review of the Year

(322498). 7.00 Emmerdale (2419). 7.30 Coronation Street (585). 8.00 Fam: The Three Musketeers (9301). 10.00 Babes in the Wood (359905). 11.10 The South Sank Show (569671). 12.10 Film: Bugsy (569671). 12.10 Film: Bugsy (5696874). (668325). 2:10 Film: Bugsy (3568580). 2.45 Film: No Secrets (866815). 4.20 Soundtrax (25431509). 4.35 Cybernet (46842431). 5.05 Hurricanes (7713325). 5.30 Bugs Burny Mystery (9542344). 5.55 - 6.00 Morning News (9202493).

As Channel 4 except: 12.30 Planed Plant (27307853), 1.00 Blue Christmas (66558653), 1.15 Film: North (98768173), 4.30 Planed Plant (42549276). 5.30 Countdown (42549276). 5.30 Countdown (1953450). 6.00 Newyddon (19564214). 6.10 Heno (60201769). 7.00 Pobol y Cwm (33958943). 7.25 Sain Ffagan -Ynys Ein Gorffennol (83173045). 8.00 Dawnsio Ar y Dibyn (25621276). 8.45 Newyddon (23848214). 9.00 Burnt Bits (49402634). 9.30 Frasier (37202009). 10.00 Brookside (95331108). 10.35 You Are Here (48497108). 11.20 Rising Damp (66495189). 1.40 What's Eating Johnny Depp? (70864388). 2.10 Close. ALL OTHER ITV REGIONS SEE MAIN ITV

CONCISE CROSSWORD



Wait in line (5)

Amuse (6) Aircraft flap (7) 10 Fine fabric (5) 11 Carry (4)

Type of rifle (7) 13 Corpulent (3) 14 Iodian prince (4) 16 Frenzied indulgence (4) 18 Border (3)

20 In proportion (3,4) 21 Rise rapidly (4) 24 Legal defence (5) 25 Inactivity (7) 26 Disinter (6)

27 Russian country house (5)

22 Drink dispenser (5) 23 Part of necklace (4)

Selution to yesterday's Concise Crossword: ACROSS: 7 Missed, 8 Rusted (Mistrusted), 10 Raiment, 11 Salvo, 12 Crib. 13 Space, 17 Molar, 18 Exam, 22 Learn, 23 Connive, 24 Camera, 25 Tom-cat. DOWN: 1 Embrace, 2 Aspirin, 3 Fever, 4 Tussock, 5 Still, 6 Idiom, 9 Stop-watch, 14 Joinery, 15 Extinct, 16 Amnesty, 19 Slack, 20 Palms, 21 Snoop.

WEDNESD



PETER CONCHIE TELEVISION REVIEW

rigour from e documentary on Channel 4 and, in that regard, Sto ochenge: Secrets of the Stones was confusing. Until the final credits rolled, that is, Then it emerged that it was a Yorkshire Television production for the Discovery Channel

A generation ego, Yarkshire roduced Arthur C Clarke's lysterious World and it was ear from Stanchenge's roduction values and exotic secondarit. The faintest hat we had here was a direct secondarit. The faintest hint of the Geraldina James (cover aligned with some weage sound effects)

consisting of wind chimes, muffled cymbals and swirling synthesiser chords.

The film's main advocate was a physicist by the name of Terence Meaden, e man with e eimplistic, sex-obsessed analysis of the stone circles of the south-west of England.

There is no physical evidence to back up his theory that an Earth goddess cult existed in ancient Britain, but, in spite of this, his views formed the basis of a film which was e muddled monument to blind assertion. At Stonehenge on midsummer roorning, e phallic shadow is east from the "Heel" stone; this penetrates to the centre of the monument where its tip touches the allegedly sacred "Goddess" atoue.

"The first arch is wider than all the others; this is the vulva of the monument," Meaden argued unconvincingly. "Inside we reach the first pair of stones which are..." (there followed a sultably pregnant pause while Meaden glanced into the lens for reassurance) "...regardable as the cervix stones, and inside this we have the uterus" One could sympathise with the poor cameraman thought he was stalking about and what the campronile was e vague sweep across the rubble as he helf-heartedly cast about for anything veguely uterine. The confusion on a pile of old stones. I didn't see a uterus among them, but, then again, I supplose I wasn't then a uterus among them, but, then again, I supplose I wasn't then

conflisted between the notion of a single truth and e rag-bag collection of subjective interpretations. "A sacred place whose meaning shifts with each generetico... enigmatic and beautiful, Stonehenge guards its secrets," What was going on here? The first half of the entitlence seemed to edwocate a relativist view which had preceded it - but the second half drifted into objectification suggesting the there were, indeed, "becrebs" to discover.

After e full hour of this, one could imagine ghosts of gods past haranguing the director for his unsubstantiated allegations: "I want you to listen to me, I'm going to any this egalo. I did oot have sexual relations with thet stooe circle." Which brings me to The Clinton to me, I'm going to any this segalo. I did oot have sexual relations with thet stooe circle." Which brings me to The Clinton of morality as a function of proximity. In other words, if e bad thing lappens at a distace, porhaps it isn't so bad after all. Whiter-director and insighthal case to explain the inexplicable: why Bill Clinton is move popular than ever after unzipping his files in the Oval Office.

At times, like his subject, Lawson couldn't help himself. He carvassed the American of which was a brilliant deconstruction of Cimton's appeal to black woters, 90 perceot of whor woted for him at the last election. "While Clinton has been secused of racism."

He le evidently at ease in an Afro-American context, as the footage of him performing in a baptist church showed. He lad the congregation of self-ease, netural charm and his slipper, preacher's syncopation. A combination of self-ease, netural charm and out of thoube in enturing and out of out of out of the condition of self-ease.

A RATHER ENGLIGH MARRHAGE (10.15pm 88C2, right) A marvellous cast of British stars tokes on the task of bringing Angela Lambert's thoughtful novel, edepted by Andrew Davies, to the smell screen. Albert Finney end Tom Courtenay star as e psir of widowers from opposite ends of the social spectrum. They play e retired squadron leeder and a millonan who, having heen at odds thronghout their lives, strike up an unlikely co-dependency which is driven, at bottom, by mutuel loncliness. They bumble along in Odd-Conple-style friendship unlil a predstory deme with a hidden agendo turns up in the shape of Joanna Lunnley. Solld drama for tired viewers

A promising new series which has, apparently, been slaying them Stateside. The original 1992 film, severely underrated at the thme, pressged the more successful Clueless by some three years, but many of the elements are the same: the teenage Californian Valley girts' preoccupation with nell varnish and accessorising and a starp eye for the absurdities of edult behaviour. The heroine in question is Buffy, a 16-year-old cheericader type who has to face the fact that her preordained destiny is to hunt out

COMEDY OF THE DAY

BBC

730 Children's 6BC: Greedysaurus and the Gang (R) (6781547). 7.15 Teletubbles (S) (5762189). 7.40 Yog/s Treasure Hunt (R) (1807278). 8.00 Blue Peter – the Best Bits (S) (T) (8460189). 6.35 Tez-Menie (8072488). 6.00 Sweet Valley High (R) (S) (7547082). 6.25 The Fame Geme (R) (S) (7557478). 6.56 Teletubbles (S) (9711479). 10.20 News; Regional News; Weether (T) (8112189). 10.20 News; Regional News; Weether (Robert Builer 1871 US). Dieney media eatire, the chief Interest of which lies in making one realise that Kurt Russell is a lot older than he looke (T) (35550045). 12.05 Wilpeout (S) (T) (9740853). 12.30 Laughing for Ages (S) (58656). 1.00 News; Weether; Regional News (T) (21230740). 1.15 Neighboure (S) (T) (86806160). 1.40 Battsreas Dogs' Home (S) (T) (97898295). 2.40 20,000 Leaguse under the Sea (S) (T) (7143585). 3.40 The World's Strongest Man (S) (T) (1576295).

4.10 IIIM The Greet Outdoors (Howard Dautch 1988).
Brain-numbing comedy with John Candy and Den Aykroyd (B) (1) (4588059). 5.35 Children's BBC:
Newsround Paview of the Year (S) (1) (332818).

6.00 Neighboure. Sueen end Libby fell out. Bilt's job hangs in the balence (S) (T) (649011).

10

6.20 A Queetion ot Sport. Sue Berker chaire the long-running quiz show. Guests are Linford Christie, Andy Cole, Gareth Southgate and Sem Torrancs (S) (T) (527030).

100

8.50 The Netional Lottery: Amazing Luck Storiea.
Another attempt to pretend that this greedfest is a talevision programme (S) (T) (674672).

9.00 The Echo. Conclusion of the Minette Walters drame. Mike Descon spands Christmas Day with homeless youngeter Terry, elderly lawyer Lawrence and picture researcher Barry, picking over the new discoveries about Billy's past. Makes a change from cheradee, enyway (S) (T) (7343030).

10

10.45 Review of the Yeer. Michael Owen's World Cup debut, the success of *Titanic*, Bill and Monics, and the Tamworth Two (S) (T) (9732905). 12.00 Faces of Islem (S) (T) (8804431). 12.20 42 Up (R) (S) (T) (2035561).

Joins 66C News 24 (1635967). To 7am.

DRAMA OF THE DAY

6.35

6.26 Newel Weather (1) (748488).

6.45 Neweroom South East (1) (302363). 6.55 Only Fools end Horsee. Conclusion of the saga in which the Cockney wide-boye travel to the United Steles (R) (S) (T) (8028834).

10.15 Newel Regionet Newel Weether (1) (719092).

1.36 11111 They Might 6e Clients (Anthony Hervey 1971 US). Bizerre romentic comedy. Lawyer George C Scott le convinced that he is Sheriock Holmss. Psychiatrist Dr Watson (Joenns Woodwerd) is convinced otherwise (1) (8888412). 12,00

6.35 [1] The Greet Dictetor (Charlie Cheplin 1840 US). Chaplin's Nezl estire which got banned in Germsny, thereby earning for iteest a rather overblown reputation elsewhere (T) (71483011).

ITM Anchors Aweigh (George Sidney 1845 US). Terrilic musical with Frank Stratra and Gane Kally dancing with a cartoon mouse (T) (63255834).

(S) (T) (5971056), 12.20 Claseles for Kids (S) (T) (1757856), 1.10 Cricket -- the Ashes (S) (58620382), 1.40 Rex the Runt (R) (S) (T) (50453106), 1.50 Rex the Runt (S) (T) (50453106), 1.50 Rex the Runt (S) (T) (50442082), 2.00 The Royal Institution Christmes Lectures: Staying Alive -- the Body in Balance (S) (T) (94127), 3.00 Periactly Frenk (S) (T) (8438837), 3.05 Shooting the Century (S) (T) (2960496), 3.55 Perfectly Frenk (S) (T) (9804905).

4.00 ITIM Assault on a Queen (Jsck Donoliue 1986 US). Frank Sinetre ettempts to rob the passengere of the Queen Mery. Okay-ish comedy drema (T) (84788653).

6.30 The Simpsons. Double bill in which Bert inedvertently, joins the boy ecouts end discovera that e Springfield tractition is a fraud (S) (T) (809856).

6.00 BIODE Butty the Vampire Slayer, Spooty comedy drema. See Comedy of the Day, below (S) (T) (1901214),

6.25 Rex the Runt. Decidedly lify animetion (S) (T) (952363).

Never Mind the Guzzoocke. Msi C, Netelle Appleton, Huey from the Fun Lovin' Criminels and Fick Wekeman scintillate us with their wit (S) (T) (830285).

6,35

10.15 OSDIY A Rether English Marriege.

Drematisation of the Angela Lambert trovel. Sss Drama of the Day, below (S) (1) (489092).

ġ

45 ITN Newel Weether (1) (980534).

11.56 Pertectly Frenk. Hervey Keltst reflects on the glifts of Frank Sinetra (S) (T) (182450).

1311/11 Some Came Running (Vincente Miraelli 1858 US). The third film of the day in BBC2's Sinstra sesson, and it's a bit of e dendy. A demobbed soldier linds that estiling beck into small-town life is less easy than he had anticipated. Also starring Deen Mertin (T) (83280883). To 2:15am.

BBC2

5.60 Poppee. More from Monteverdt Nero contempletoe ebandoning his wila, Ottsvia, for the seductive Poppea, end echemes to get rid of Seneca (S) (849188).

7.15 6ter Trek: The Next Generation. Worf Iserns of thing or two ebout parenthood (R) (S) (T) (517924).

10.00 Gebes in the Wood. Seesonal edition of the zzzzitcom. What a nerve. The three drips prepare for their New Yser's Eve party. Cherile gets the eurprise of his lifs. What, eomeone leughed? (S) (T) (359805).

11.00 London Tonight (T) (898856). 1140 The South Bank Show (S) (T) (269671). 2.10 [HIDTH] Bugsy (Barry Levinson 1991 US). Cracking blopic. See Film of the Dey. below (1) (35382509).

20 .45 IIIII No Secrets (Peter Curren 1982 UK/US).
Absurd political comedy with Oliver Reed (888815). Soundtrax (S) (25431509). 4.36 Cybernet (S) (48842431). 5.05 Hurricenes (S) (T) (771325). 5.30 Bugs Bunny Mystery Speciel (9542344). 5.55 ITN

36 Children's ITV: Tiny Toon Adventures (R) (S) (T) (5472837). 10.10 Brilliant Creatures (R) (S) (T) (7933450). 10.35 FILM: The Sheggy Dog (Dennis Dugen 1994 US). Boy becomes a shespdog in much-remade Disney yarn (S) (T) (33035634). 12.20 Your Shout (8403011). 12.30 News: Weether (T) (54924). 1.00 London Today (T) (28672).

IIIM My oirl (Howerd Zieff 1991 US). Blackish comedy ruined by the presence of the nauseeting Mecaulay Culkin (S) (T) (57559285). 3.25 Cartoon (8445498). 3.30 ITN News Headlines (T) (8875059). 3.35 London Today (T) (8887030).

.40 News; Weether (T) (231740).

.00 London Tonight. And weether (T) (721)

.30 London Bridge. Isobel begins the tight of her life when Freddie epelle out his demends. Kim's behaviour becomes increasingly Irrettonal (S) (301).

.00 Emmerdele. Sereh end Viv lorm an unlikely allience, and e gun-wielding Billy is cornered by the police (S) (1) (2419).

Coronetion Street. Poor old Selly. Not only is Kevin being beaetly alter her adulterous elfals, but evil former lover Greg is out for revenge (T) (585).

10.46 Friends. Seasonel jepes with the ehiny pels (S) (T) (158030).

11.20 Whet's Reting Johnny Depp? (347905).

1.40 [3][M] Alive end Kicking (Nsncy Meckisr Gey drama with Antony Sher (800238). 1996 UK).

5.15 Guper Deve (R) (2458054), **5.35** 2 Stupid Dogs (R) (S) (4355388), **5.55** Sesame Street (9718509). To 7am

TELEVISION GUIDE BY SERENA MACKISY

.**00 GMTV** (1738769). **6.26** ITN News Headlines (1) (4062450).

IIIM Iron Will (Cherles Held 1994 US). Disney historicel dreme in which an orphened teenager (MecKenzie Astin) entere e long-distence dog-sied rece to seve the family ferm (S) (T) (859634).

8.30 Grookside. The linger of suspicion points at Ryen. Ron begins to regret his fling with Bev, and Jacqui piens a speciacular launch for the Millannium Club (S) (1) (9214).

6.00 Gtonehenge: Secret of the Stones. The sepert of this documentery series explores just how sophisticated the temple's Stone Age builders and erchitecte actuelly were (1) (3363).

10.00 You Are Here. "Oflbert" rurel cornedy drema with Kelth Allen end Nigel Planer (357547).

11.60 [III] Benny end Joon (Jeremiah Chechik 1893 US).
Paculiar romantic drame with Johnny Depp (S) (T) (422856).

3.30 IIII Where the Sidewelk Ends (Otto Preminger 1950 US). Shabby #m noir (499493).

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THE WEDNESDAY REVIEW
The Independent 30 December 1998

ELEVISION

7.30 The Magic School Bus (S) (99950), 0.00 The Big Breaklast (86479), 10.00 Seved by the Belf (R) (S) (T) (88566), 10.30 Earle, Indians (R) (35301), 11.00 Medison (S) (7214), 11.30 Bebylon 5 (T) (44553), 12.30 Bisbermouth and Siticky Beek (T) (4222011), 1.35 Blinkey Cen't Fly (45682818), 1.50 Summit Fever (R) (7753160), 2.50 Wine Hunt (T) (4126585), 3.20 Toot Stories (T) (150045), 3.50 Fitteen to One Highlights (S) (T) (9148082), 4.30 Countdown (T) (9255108), 4.35 Ricki Lake (T) (7574363).

6.00 Wind in the Willows (R) (25532837). 6.25 Roobarb (R) (37029943). 6.30 Deppledown Ferm (R) (42'3740). 7.00 Wimzle's House (R) (8656127). 7.30 Milkshekel (S) (2295127). 7.35 Hevekazoo (R) (S) (6850030). 0.00 George of the Jungle (R) (720'1382). 6.30 FILM: Lessie: Adventures of Neeke (Dick Moder, Jack B Hively 1971 US). Dog seves child etc (95122214).

5,30 Ge

6.00 Riverdence: e Journey. The Irish dence troupe's rise from Eurovision Song Contest obscurity to International fame. Producers, composers, choreographers, cast and Michael Flatisy talk and talk, as do protessional Irishman Llam Neeson and Gabriel Byrne (Fl) (S) (T) (60585).

6.30 Family Affeirs. Siobhan and Holly argue over the photo session. Sedie gele Llom eway before the police arrive (S) (T) (2081721).

6.00 100 Per Cent (S) (2007769). 5.30 Neme Thet Tune (2000856). 5.25 Ruesell Grent's Postcerde (R) (34303769)

3.30 ETIM Demn the Osfiant! (Lewis Gilbert 1962 UK)
Jolly Nepoleonic swashbuckler, stylishly carried by Dirk
Bogarde and Alac Guinness (T) (4739585).

 $\exists :$

9.50 My Story (679/301). 10.20 Sunsel Beach (S) (T) (749/3491). 11.10 Leeze (R) (S) (819/7011). 12.00 5 News et Noon (T) (7271/769). 12.30 Family Atfeirs (R) (S) (T) (289/2479). 1.00 The Bold end the Beautiful (S) (T) (685/5498). 1.30 Wowladgroovy (2884450). 2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (S) (1165/030). 2.30 Good Afternoon (S) (283/9905).

7.00 Hercee of Comedy. Tommy Cooper: the secret of his succees. He did it just like that. No, like that (R) (T) (70769).

7.00 5 Ne

Five (S) (T) (1143818)

7.30 Best of Pepel. Chart hite with Neil Fox (S) (2087905).

9.00 Storm Warning. More recycled footege of people almost killed by the weather conditions (R) (T) (5231853)

مكذا من الاصل

6.00

10.66 The Jeok Docherty Show. Lenny Beige, Bruce Robinson and Antony Worral Thompson (S) (2527586)

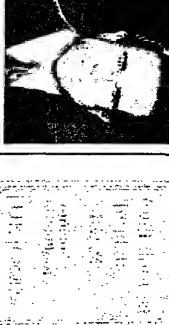
11.35 Compremieling Situetions (F) (7885805).

12.10 [IIIII] Cherry, Narry and Requel (Fluss Meyer 1969 US). Typical kitsch from the director who loves breasts above all else. The screenplay, amezingly enough, comee from Tom Wolfe (S) (54605899). 1.30 Live end Dangerous - Review of the Yeer (12250528), 4.40 Club Clase (R) (S) (81231783), 5.05 Move On Up (R) (S) (19901054), 6.30 100 Per Cent (R) (S) (7893290). To 6am.



JGSY (1210em ITV, right) This loose, somewhat thological biopic of Bugsy Siegel, the man who built s Vegas, won two Oscars at the time, and well-deserved. were. This is a truly stylish yarn which skales around worst naneets of the gangster genre while still attaining a contoon-like quality which says more about solf-delusion of the central characters than any amount int could do. Warreo Beatty, in the central role is it, by turns puffed-up, whiching and prodeless.





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